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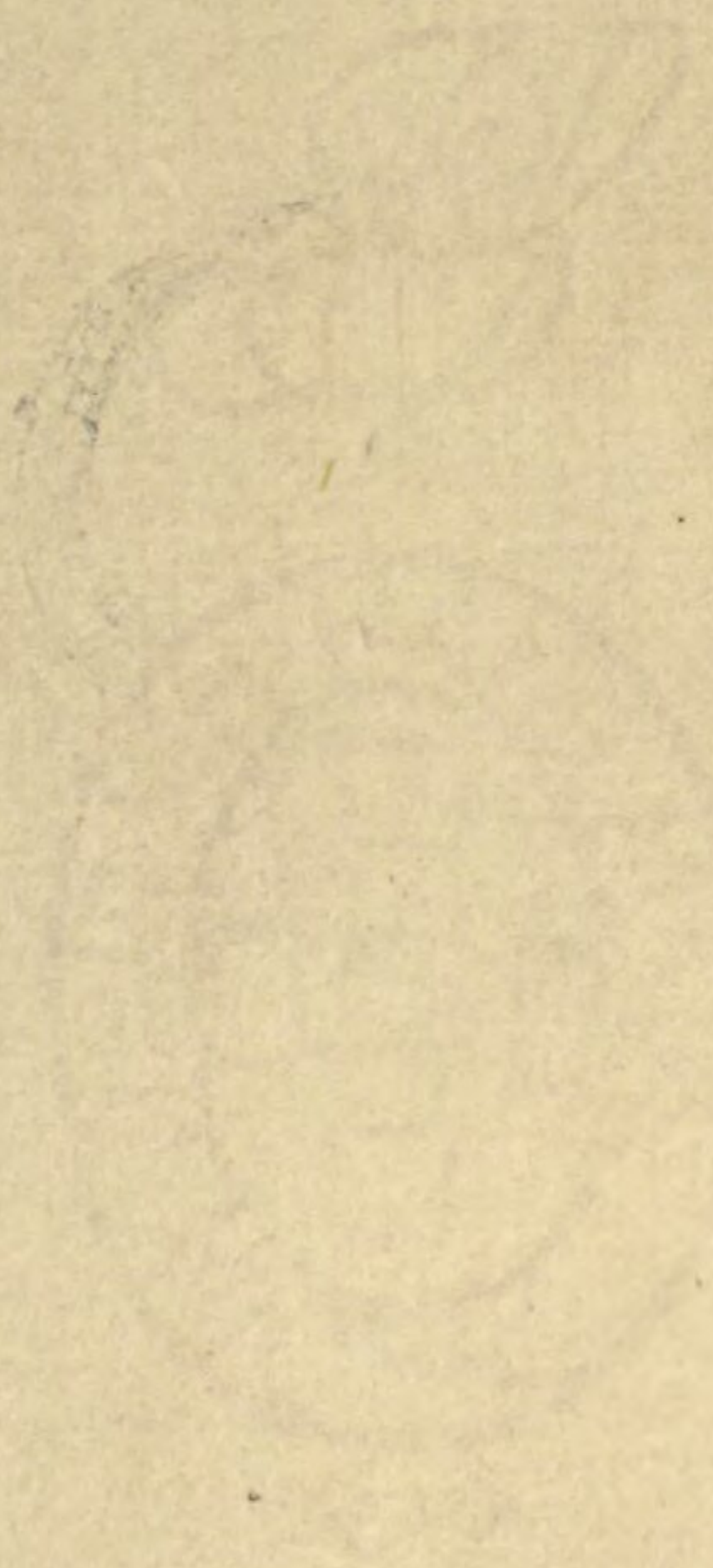
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A
VOYAGE
TO
NEW SOUTH WALES,

COMPRISING AN
INTERESTING NARRATIVE

OF THE

TRANSACTIONS AND BEHAVIOUR OF THE CONVICTS;

THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY;

AN OFFICIAL REGISTER

OF THE

Crimes, Trials, Sentences and Executions,

THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE:

A Topographical, Physical, and Moral Account of the Country,
Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives.

AS LIKEWISE

AUTHENTIC ANECDOTES

OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS,

AND

Notorious Convicts that have been transported to
BOTANY BAY.

BY GEORGE BARRINGTON,

PRINCIPAL SUPERINTENDANT OF THE CONVICTS.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED

HIS LIFE AND TRIAL.

D U B L I N:

PRINTED FOR P. WOGAN, W. PORTER, H. FITZ-
PATRICK, N. KELLY, AND J. STOCKDALE.

1801.

Wb/66/697

Book
Book No. 11

Book
Jacob Lebrun
Cannon

11

11

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To Mr. ****

DEAR SIR,

I EMBRACE the earliest opportunity of performing the promise I made you on my quitting England; and should the contents of the accompanying sheets, collected chiefly from personal observation, aided by the best local enquiries, acquit me, in your mind, of a breach of that promise, I shall feel myself more than happy.—I have in the *second part* transcribed some letters from my friend Mr. WENTWORTH, containing a pleasant narrative of the rise and progress of the settlement at Norfolk Island; together with some further particulars relative to,
SIR,

Your most obedient and obliged,

Humble Servant,

G. BARRINGTON.

To Mr. [illegible]

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THE
L I F E
OF
GEORGE BARRINGTON.

THE once popular subject of this sketch was born about 1755, at a village called Maynooth, in Ireland; his father being a working silversmith, and his mother a mantua-maker. Nearly ruined by law, they were unable to give their son an education suitable to the early abilities which he discovered. He was, however, taught to read and write; and a neighbouring surgeon instructed him in arithmetic, the elements of geography, and the general principles of grammar.

At sixteen, young Waldron was noticed and patronised by Dr. C——, a dignitary in the church of Ireland; and through whose influence he was placed at a free grammar-school in Dublin. But stabbing an older boy than himself with a penknife, from motives of revenge, he lost the support of his benevolent patron, and was severely chastised by the master. He could by no means forgive this degradation; and therefore resolved on leaving the school, and all his fair prospects behind.

His plan of escape was no sooner framed than it was carried into execution ; but previous to his departure, he found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from Mr. F——, the master of the school, and a gold repeating watch from Mrs. Gouldsborough, the master's sister.—With this booty, a few shirts, and two or three pair of stockings, he silently, but safely, effected his retreat from the school-house, in the middle of a still night, in the month of May 1771 ; and pursuing the great northern road all that night, and all the next day, he late in the evening, arrived at the town of Drogheda, without interruption, without accident, and, in a great measure, without halting, without rest, and without food.

At Drogheda, Master Waldron connected himself to a company of strollers, and vagabondised about the country with indifferent success. The Theatrical Manager at length concerted a depredatory scheme with the young hero of his stage ; and, at intervals, they levied some heavy contributions. This great man, however, in the *character* of Waldron's servant, was detected in picking the pocket of the Right Hon. H—— K——, and transported to America for seven years. His pupil shortly afterwards, attempting the property of Lord B——, at Carlow races, met the discipline of the course ; and this disaster it was, that first determined him to select England as the theatre of his future exploits. He accordingly embarked on board the Dorset yacht, and arrived in England, in 1773, being then aged about eighteen.

In the metropolis he lived as Mr. Barrington, in a style of singular splendour, on the spoils which he had collected in Ireland ; and by imposing on a gentleman, who had been passenger with

with him in the yacht, he gained his favour and confidence; finding by that means, an introduction into the politest circles; from whence he extracted abundant plunder for a long time without been even suspected.

It would prove unuseful and even tasteless to follow Mr. Barrington through all his early scenes of dissipation and licentiousness: we shall therefore content ourselves with giving the most remarkable of his feats, as detached anecdote.

On forming a connection with one Lowe, which was but a short time previous to that evening of the month of January, which is observed as the anniversary of the Queen's birth-day, it was resolved on between them, that habited as a clergyman, Mr. Barrington should repair to Court, and there endeavour, not only to pick the pockets of some of the company, but, what was a much bolder, and a much more novel attempt, to cut off the diamond orders of some of the Knights of the Garter, Bath, and Thistle, who on such days, usually wear the collars of their respective orders over their coats. In this enterprise he succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations that could have been formed, by either his new accomplice Lowe or himself; for he found means to take the diamond order of Lord C——, with which he got away from St. James's perfectly unsuspected.

This valuable acquisition, by the assistance and agency of Lowe, he disposed of for near eight hundred pounds to one Lursham, a Dutchman.

In the course of the winter of the year 1775, Prince Orlov, a Russian Nobleman of the first rank and consequence, and high in the favour of his Sovereign, visited England. The splendour in which he lived, and the several circumstances of

of his story, and of his favour at the Court of Russia, were frequently noticed, and largely descanted on in the public prints; and particularly a gold snuff-box, set with brilliants, which was presented to him by the Empress, and which was generally valued at the enormous sum of thirty thousand pounds. This precious trinket excited, in an extraordinary manner, the attention of Barrington, and he determined to exert himself, in order to get it into his possession one way or other. For this a favourable opportunity presented itself one night at Covent-Garden play-house; and this experienced pickpocket did not neglect to avail himself of it. He contrived to be near the Prince, and found means to convey the treasure, of which the acquisition was the great object of his avarice, or ambition, from his Excellency's waistcoat pocket, in which, according to the Russian custom, it was usually carried, into his own.

This operation was not, however, performed in such a manner as to escape instant detection: for the Prince felt the attack that was so impudently made upon him, and having reason to entertain some suspicion of Barrington, he immediately seized him by the collar. Such an action in a public theatre, naturally occasioned some bustle, as well as surprize; and during the confusion that ensued, he slipped the box into the nobleman's hand, who was, doubtless, glad to have recovered it with so much facility. The thief was, however, secured, and committed to Tothill Fields Bridewell, for examination on the Wednesday following at Bow-street.

At the time appointed he was brought before Sir John Fielding, and examined, not only for the offence for which he was taken into custody, but

but also relative to his family, his profession, and his connections. On this occasion he represented himself as a native of Ireland, where his family, he said, were affluent and respectable; that he was educated in the medical line; and that he came to London, to improve himself in the knowledge of it; all these circumstances he represented with becoming modesty, and with many tears, neither absolutely denying the crime with which he was charged at the play-house, nor formally avowing his guilt. So that, after all, the Prince declining to proceed against him, and no prosecutor appearing, he was dismissed, after receiving a proper reprimand from the Magistrate, and some seasonable admonition.

Partial to the theatre, he some time afterwards picked the pocket of Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury-lane play-house; for which offence he was instantly taken into custody. Charge of him was given to one Blandy, a constable, who, either through negligence or corruption, suffered him to make his escape. The proceedings against him were, however, carried on to an outlawry, and various methods were ineffectually taken for near two years, to have him apprehended.

While the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavouring to take him, he was travelling in various disguises, and in various characters the northern counties of this kingdom. He visited the great towns in those parts, as a quack doctor, or as a clergyman; sometimes he went with an E O table, and sometimes he pretended to be a rider to a manufacturing house at Birmingham or Manchester; and travelling on horseback, with a decent appearance and a grave deportment, the account which he thought proper to give of himself was credited without any

difficulty, by those who thought proper to question him.

It, however, sometimes happened that he was known by gentlemen whom he met, particularly once in Lincolnshire, but no one offered to molest or interrupt him until he arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne, where on being recognised, he was suspected of picking pockets, and on enquiry he was found to be outlawed; on which he was removed by a writ of *Habeas Corpus* to London, and imprisoned in Newgate, where he arrived poor, emaciated and dejected.

The companions of his life, as a distinguished character in his line, however, on learning his circumstances, made a subscription for him, by which they collected near an hundred guineas for his use; and by this seasonably supply he was enabled to employ counsel, and to take legal measures to have the outlawry against him reversed.

This being done, he was tried for the original offence, that of stealing Mr. Le Mesurier's purse; and through the absence of the Rev. Mr. Adeane, a material witness for the prosecution, he was acquitted and discharged.

In 1777, previous to the transaction recited in the foregoing anecdote, Mr. Barrington was sentenced to the Woolwich Hulks, for stealing a watch, of little value, from a woman whose situation was more indigent than his own.

In this receptacle of wretchedness and vice, he found himself exposed to such complicated misery, as he had never before known, and to such fatal diseases, as he had never before felt. He was fatigued with hard labour, and harrassed with all the evils of indigence, confinement, and obloquy; yet he bore up against all the weight
of

of woe under which he laboured, with a degree of patience, resignation, and constancy, worthy of a better cause than that in which he suffered. Fortune, at length, declared in his favour, and freedom became the recompence of his exemplary conduct during the period of his captivity; for, on the recommendation of Messrs. Erskine and Duncan Campbell, the superintendants or governors of the convicts, a pardon was granted to him; and, after somewhat less than a twelve-month's severe sufferings on the Thames, he was set at large. However, in less than half a year after his enlargement from the Hulks, he was again detected by the vigilance of one Payne, at that time a very active peace officer in the City, in the fact of picking pockets in St. Sepulchre's church, during the time of the celebration of Divine Service, on a certain city festival; and having been convicted of this offence, on the clearest evidence, at the Old Bailey, he was a second time sentenced to hard labour on the Thames, and that for the term of five years.

Upon his trial, on this occasion, it was that he appeared to have first distinguished himself as a public speaker. He endeavoured, with much art, but without any success, to work upon the feelings of the Court and Jury; but the proofs against him were so clear, that he was found guilty; and, pursuant to his sentence, he was removed once more to the Hulks at Woolwich, about the middle of the year 1778.

When he was this second time put on board one of these prison ships, he either found his sufferings more intolerable, or his situation to be more desperate, than they appeared to him on his first confinement; a circumstance which is said to have determined him upon suicide: and, in
consequence

consequence of this impious resolution, he stabbed himself with a penknife. The wound, tho' deep and dangerous, did not prove mortal; and medical assistance being called in, and seasonably applied, a cure was effected. It was, however, effected very slowly; and the wound having been given in the breast, seemed in its effects, after near two years continuance, to bring a consumption on the unhappy patient.

While he remained in this deplorable situation, it happened, fortunately for him, that Sir M—— L——, a gentleman of rank and consequence, happened to visit the Hulks, and to enquire into the state of the convicts. This gentleman, who was of the most benevolent character, and possessed of the most feeling heart, was led by curiosity to converse with Barrington; and his emaciated and squalid appearance so moved him with compassion, that he applied for a remission of the remaining part of his sentence; which was granted on condition of his (Barrington) immediately leaving England on his enlargement, and never more returning to it; and in order to enable him to fulfil his promise, a sum of money was given to him to defray the expence of his journey to Ireland, his native country:

Ireland proving too circumscribed for the display of his great abilities; and having narrowly escaped conviction before a Dublin Jury, Mr. Barrington resolved to visit his favourite London once more, however dangerous the attempt, and however awful the impending consequences. He put his design into execution; and, after a few public essays at the Opera and the Theatres, he was taken up on suspicion; but nothing being proved against him, he was detained in Newgate at

at the instance of Mr. Duncan Campbell, for not fulfilling the terms of his liberation ; and in that gloomy receptacle he *served* out the remaining part of his former sentence. With liberty, however, his aptitude towards pilfering returned ; and he lived in a continual state of warfare and apprehension, till the event took place which led to an outlawry, as before related.

September 15, 1790, Mr. George Barrington was arraigned at the Old Bailey Bar, on an indictment, charging him with stealing, on the first of the same month, a gold watch, chains, and seals, and a metal key, belonging to Henry Hare Townsend, Esq. at Enfield, during the races held there. On the evidence, Mr. Barrington was found guilty ; and sentenced to Botany Bay for seven years, where his good and *prudent* conduct has since procured him the office of *Constable* ! and it is to be hoped, that his sound knowledge will induce him to hold that appointment long, very long, after the approaching expiration of his allotted servitude.

Particulars relating to the Trial and Conviction of
 GEORGE BARRINGTON.

HE was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the first of September, at Enfield races, a gold watch, valued at twenty guineas ; a chain likewise of gold, valued at forty shillings, and a seal also valued at forty shillings, the property of Henry Hare Townsend, Esq.

Mr.

Mr. Townsend, the prosecutor, being first examined, deposed, that on the first of September, having entered a horse for the races at Enfield, he accordingly went there at one o'clock in the afternoon: he put his watch in his waistcoat pocket, as much for the conveniency of looking at it, as to prevent the chain from soiling his breeches, which were of leather. About a quarter past two he felt his watch in his waistcoat pocket. As he was leading the horse, which was to run, up to the starting post, a person dressed in a light-coloured coat, rudely rushed in from behind him, and pushed against the arm which had hold of the horse; the same person again repeated his push, but in a more violent manner.

Mr. Townsend further deposed, that from the reiterated apparent insult offered to him, he, accompanied with an oath, asked Barrington what he wanted? to which he returned no answer, but observed the prisoner looked much confused. The conduct on the part of Barrington appeared very odd; but he entertained no suspicion of having been robbed, until Mr. Blades came up to him, and asked him, if he had not been robbed? On feeling his pocket, he found his watch was gone. Mr. Blades informed him that Barrington was on the course, and he verily believed that he was the thief. After this they had agreed to say nothing about the matter, until they had found the supposed offender. They then walked about in search of Barrington, and at last saw him on the opposite side of the course; this was at the very moment when the horses were going to start. Nothing occurred till after the horses were past; after which they went up to him; Mr. Townsend going

going behind him, seized him by the collar, and said—"You rascal, you have robbed me of my watch." No sooner had Mr. Townsend said the words, but he again laid hold of him fast by one hand and arm, and Mr. Blades took hold of the other, and conducted him to a booth.

Buxton Kendrick affirmed, that after he had been about a minute in the booth, he heard something rattle, and looking down, he saw the watch fall rather between his legs. John Waldeck, Mr. Townsend's coachman, also declared, that he heard the watch jingle as it fell from the prisoner: that Barrington attempted to kick the watch further behind him; but that he picked it up, and gave it to Lady Lake, in the next booth, who was a relation of Mr. Townsend.

William Blades, the principal witness, deposed, that he saw Barrington at the races, he was near the stand, and close to Mr. Townsend; that he observed no conversation at the time passing between the prosecutor and prisoner. Soon after this he asked Mr. Townsend if he recollected a tall thin man, in a light-coloured coat, standing by him; which he said he did, but knew nothing of him. Blades after this informed Mr. Townsend, that he supposed he was robbed, which appearing to be the fact, they both went in search of the prisoner, whom they apprehended, as above related.

Mary Dandy deposed, that she was standing in the next booth, and saw the prisoner drop the watch out of his hand; after this, she looked him full in the face, and consequently could not tell whether he kicked it, or not. She at the same time accused him of throwing the watch down, but was immediately pulled back by some person near her.

Barrington

Barrington made a long and specious defence, and among other things, charged the evidence with being imperfect, inconsistent, and in some respects, unsafe, especially that of Mary Dandy.

Lord Chief Baron Eyre, having summed up the evidence in a clear and circumstantial manner, observed that the prosecutor had demonstrated his lenity, by making the indictment only for single felony, when it might have been made capital.—The Jury after a short deliberation, found the prisoner guilty,—Transportation for seven years.

The Chief Baron then addressed Barrington in a far different style from that he used before: his Lordship observed, that he must consider himself as peculiarly fortunate in the lenity of his prosecutor: he said that he had had many warnings, not only from the fate of others, but the many narrow escapes himself had had; and he regretted that talents like his should be employed in a manner so truly disgraceful to him: and (said his Lordship), notwithstanding your life is now saved, I fear that these wicked habits are so far rooted in you, that your existence will terminate in a shameful spectacle.

Among other things said by Barrington in his address to the Court, the following is not unworthy notice:

“The world has given me credit for much greater abilities than I am conscious of possessing: the world should also consider that the greatest abilities may be so obstructed by the ill-nature of some unfeeling minds, as, to render them nearly useless to the possessor. And where was the generous and powerful man to come forward, and say—‘Barrington, you have some abilities which may be of service to yourself and the public, but
you

you have much obstruction—I feel for your situation, and shall place you in a condition to try the sincerity of your intentions ; and as long as you act with diligence and integrity, you shall not want for countenance and relief !’ Alas ! my Lord, George Barrington had never the supreme felicity of having such comfort administered to his wounded spirits, as matters have unfortunately turned out.”

you have been very kind to send me
the book which you have written on the
subject of your mission; and I am
very glad to see that you have
written in a very interesting and
clear manner. I have read it with
great interest and have learned
much from it. I am sure that it
will be very useful to many
people who are interested in the
subject of your mission.

A
VOYAGE
TO
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

IT was with unspeakable satisfaction that I received a summons to be ready early the next morning for my embarkation, agreeably to my sentence. I instantly made the most of my time, and by the assistance of a friend, procured a few pounds worth of necessaries for my voyage; government allowance being extremely slender, especially for one like me, who had hitherto been accustomed to most of the luxuries of the table. The news of my speedy departure brought several of my acquaintance to bid me adieu, and, with gratitude, I recollect that not one of them came empty handed; for, before the time of locking up, I had such a collection of ventures, that I doubted whether I should be permitted to take them all on board: had each of my shipmates been as well stocked, it would have needed a ship on purpose.

About a quarter before five a general muster took place; and, having bid farewell to my fellow prisoners,

prisoners, we were escorted from the prison to Blackfriars-bridge by the city guard, where two lighters were waiting to receive us. This procession, though early, and but few spectators, made a deep impression on my mind; and the ignominy of being thus mingled with felons of all descriptions, many scarce a degree above the brute creation, intoxicated with liquor, and shocking the ears of those they passed with blasphemy, oaths and songs, the most offensive to modesty, inflicted a punishment more severe than the sentence of my country, and fully avenged that society I had so much wronged.

Absorbed in the most humiliating meditation, the objects we passed going down the river were totally unnoticed by me; nor was I roused from my lethargy till I received a violent blow on the head, which I took at first for a stroke with a stick, but on looking around me found we were alongside the ship, and that the injury I had sustained proceeded from the boatswain, who, standing on the gangway, had thrown a small coil of rope for some one on board the lighter to take hold of, to bring us alongside, and which unluckily came in contact with my head; this circumstance occasioned a laugh at my expence; but as I have always found that chagrin and ill-humour encreases the mortification, I stifled my real sensations, and seemed to join in the mirth. In my turn I ascended the ship's side, and to my great satisfaction, the first person I cast my eyes on was my particular friend, whose generous exertions not only procured me stowage for my packages, but also the liberty of walking the deck, unencumbered by those ignominious and galling chains, which my past conduct had consigned me to. Not content with these services, he prevailed on
the

the boatswain to admit me into his mess, which was composed of the second mate, carpenter, and gunner, who cheerfully acquiesced, on receiving my proportion towards defraying the extra requisites for the mess during the voyage. My benefactor having rendered my situation thus comfortable, bade me farewell, and left me : my heart swelling with gratitude, was too full, and, interdicted all verbal acknowledgments ; but the remembrance is too strongly engraven thereon for the most distant time to effect the slightest eradication.

My fellow prisoners, to the amount of upwards of two hundred, were all ordered into the hold, which was rendered as convenient as circumstances would admit, battens being fixed fore and aft for hammocks, which was hung seventeen inches apart from each other ; but being incumbered with irons, together with the want of fresh air, soon rendered their situation truly deplorable. To alleviate their condition as much as was consistent with the safety of the ship, they were permitted to walk the deck in turn, ten at a time : the women of whom we had six, had a snug birth made for them, and were kept by themselves.

My messmate, the boatswain, had provided me with a neat slung hammock, and gave me a birth next his own ; at the same time addressing some of his shipmates who were present, with, " Looke, my hearts, as I know you are all above distressing a gentleman under misfortunes, I'm sure you will consent to his having this here birth ; but if so be as how any of you don't like it, why, you may have mine.—It isn't the first time I have pricked for the softest plank." Whether from the oratory of my new friend, or the insinuating appearance of a large can of flip, produced from an ample liquor

liquor case, which promised a succession of the same arguments, the iron muscles of his auditors were softened down to a significant smile, and universal nod of assent. The settling of this important business afforded me great satisfaction, as it not only assured me a comfortable birth for my hammock, but a place also for my little property, which I could have immediately under my eye.

We lay about a week at Long Reach, when we dropt down to Gravesend; here the captain came on board, and some soldiers of the New South Wales corps; we got under weigh the next morning, and proceeded to the Downs; it blowing strong to the westward, we came to an anchor. The wind veering about, at daybreak we were again under sail, and arrived at the Mother-Bank, where lay several other transports for the same destination.

It was about ten days before we were ready to sail from hence, the interval being employed in getting fresh stock and replenishing our water. On the report of our being ready for sea being made to the admiral, a lieutenant of the navy came on board, as agent for transports, and immediately made the signal for the masters of the other ships to come on board, to whom he delivered their sailing instructions; and on the following morning made the signal to weigh: by a quarter past nine we were under an easy sail; and it blowing a stiff easterly breeze, we ran through the Needles: it was delightful weather, and the prospect on each hand must have afforded the most agreeable sensations to every beholder, and is, perhaps, as rich and luxuriant as is any where to be met with; but, alas! it only brought
a fresh

a fresh pang to the bosom of one, who in all probability was bidding it adieu for ever.

The weather continuing moderate, and the wind fair, we imperceptibly glided down the channel, and had lost sight of Old England before I turned out the next morning. My frequent trips from Ireland to England had in some measure, inured me to salt water, nor did I want my sea-legs in a most violent gale, which took place the third day after we lost sight of the land, and which for near ten hours baffled the skill of all hands: two men were blown from the main-top-sail yard, and the sail split to ribbons; all our endeavours to save the men proved ineffectual. Soon after our four-top-mast went over the side, and carried four men and two boys with it; but they were providentially taken up, having kept fast to the wreck. By the indefatigable exertions of the seamen, the remainder of the sails were handed, and the ship greatly eased, carrying only a storm stay-sail; the sea running very high and irregular, rendered it very uncomfortable; and not being capable of any service upon deck, I retired to my hammock, where I buried all thoughts of the contentious ocean in a sound sleep, from which I was awaked by the shrill whistle of my messmate, piping all hands to breakfast; the cheering sound of "steady" from the helmsman saluting my ears, and the quietness of the ship assured me the gale was past. Having huddled on my cloaths, I found, on my ascending the deck, the storm had subsided, the wind perfectly fair, and the ship jogging on under an easy sail at the rate of about seven miles an hour.

CHAPTER II.

THIS danger was succeeded by one that had nearly proved much more fatal; the captain, with great humanity, had released many of the convicts who had been in a weakly state from their irons; and as I have before observed, they were allowed alternately, ten at a time, to walk upon deck. Two of them, Americans, who had some knowledge of navigation, prevailed upon the majority of their comrades to attempt seizing the ship, impressing them with the idea that it would be easily effected, and that they would carry her to America, where every man would not only attain his liberty, but receive a tract of land from Congress, besides a share of the money arising from the sale of the ship and cargo.

These arguments had the desired effect, and it was determined the first opportunity that a part of those on the deck should, while the officers were at dinner, force the arm chest, which was kept on the quarter-deck, at the same time make a signal to two of them, who should be keeping the centinels in discourse, to attack them, get possession of their arms, and pass the word for those below to rush upon deck.

This conspiracy was conducted with the greatest secrecy, and put in execution with equal spirit and audacity. A favourable opportunity presenting itself, the captain and most of the officers being below, examining the stowage of some wine, a cask having leaked out in the spirit room, I was the only person on the deck excepting the man at the helm; hearing a scuffle on the

the main deck, I was going forward, but was stopped by one of the Americans, followed by another convict, who made a stroke at me with a sword he had wrested from one of the centinels, which was put aside by a pistol which the other had just snapped at me: I snatched up a handspike luckily in my reach, and brought the foremost to the ground; the man at the helm had quitted the wheel, and called up the captain. I still kept my situation, guarding the passage of the quarter-deck, my antagonists having retreated a few paces, but being joined by many others, were rushing on me, when the discharge of a blunderbuss from behind me among them wounding several, they retreated, and I was immediately joined by the captain and the rest of the officers, who, in a few minutes, drove them all into the hold. An attempt of this kind required the most exemplary punishment; accordingly two of the ringleaders were instantly hung at the yard-arm, and several others severely flogged at the gangway.

As soon as the conspirators were re-ironed, and the tranquillity of the ship restored, the captain paid me many handsome compliments, in having, as he was pleased to say, saved the ship, and assured me that when we arrived at the Cape, he should, on the part of his owners, think it his duty to reward the service I had, by my courage and presence of mind rendered them; at the same time he gave his steward orders to supply me with any thing I might have occasion for from his store-room during the voyage.

I soon experienced the good effects of my late behaviour, as seldom a day passed but some fresh meat or poultry was sent me by the captain, which considerably raised me in the estimation of
my

my messmates, who were no ways displeased at the substitution of a sea pie made of fowl or fresh meat, to a dish of lobscouse, or a piece of salt junk.

With a settled north-westerly breeze we gradually proceeded to the southward, at the rate of between eighty and one hundred miles in twenty-four hours: we soon reached the island of Teneriffe, and came to an anchor in the bay of Santa Cruz, which is defended by several batteries of three or four guns each, at certain distances from from each other, round the bay, and close to the water's edge; their principal fort is near to the landing-place, and mounts a number of heavy cannon: it is a strong-work, but there being a good depth of water close in shore, it could not sustain the attack of two ships of the line, though the whole of the batteries mount more than one hundred pieces of cannon.

The town of Santa Cruz is very irregularly built, the principal street being so broad, that it looks more like a square than a street: the house of the governor, which is at the upper end, is a very indifferent looking building, and has more the appearance of an auberge than the palace of a Spanish grandee; at the other end is a square monument, commemorating the appearance of our Lady to the Guanches, the Aborigines of the island. The outskirts appear like a deserted village rather than a place of trade, many of the houses being either half built, or fallen to decay from some cause or other; and the stone walls, which were their principal fences, are broken down and in ruins.

Some of the officers having obtained leave from the agent of transports to visit the town of Oratava, a few miles from Santa Cruz, we having
completed

completed our water and fresh stock, and waiting for the other transports who had not been so alert; on my expressing a desire to see the town, I was permitted to be of the party. The country is exceedingly beautiful and fertile, notwithstanding the frequent convulsions of the neighbouring volcanos; we arrived at Oratava about noon, and by signs, for none of us were masters of the language, we got a few eggs, and plenty of small wine. We had scarcely taken our seats, when we were relieved from the inconvenience attending our not being acquainted with the language, by the arrival of an old Spanish soldier, who had been some time a prisoner in England, and spoke our tongue tolerably well: we informed him we had come from Santa Cruz to take a nearer view of the Peak, and, if time would admit, to ascend it. He said it was impossible at this time of the year, as no guides would undertake to accompany us, and that several of the goatherds who had ventured after their goats, had perished from the intenseness of the cold, but that he would take us as far as was prudent for us to venture. We thanked him for the offer, and accordingly walked about a league from the town into the plain, which extends to the base of the Peak, and had a full view of this stupendous mountain. Immense quantities of lava, and huge fragments of rocks, evidently vomitted from the crater of the volcano, covered the plains, and nearly reached the town: we gathered some small pieces which had been sparred off, and found them impregnated with inflammable matter, and as hard as flint. I measured one of the pieces of rock with some twine I had about me, and afterwards found it was near seventy feet in circumference. Our time
being

being short, and the weather intensely cold, we returned to Oratava, and got some salt fish, with a few hard eggs for supper, to which our old soldier invited himself, but amply repaid us for his intrusion by a lively and humorous description of the squabbles of his neighbours, the knavery practised by the mountaineers on the curious and exploring stranger; his own heroism against the Moors, and at the siege of Gibraltar, where he was taken prisoner; with his amours while in England; the intervals were supplied by several songs from a company of muleteers, who by their extreme vociferation entirely discomposed the serenity of our loquacious guest, and, but for my mediation, would have produced a serious quarrel between them. Our leave of absence from the ship extending till sunset the following day, we enquired of our interpreter if we could be provided with beds; he gave us to understand that a bed was an article of luxury little known to the generality of the Oratavians, but he would get us mats to sleep on, which we were fain to be contented with; and in spite of the indefatigable labour of myriads of every species of vermin, I enjoyed as profound a sleep, as though I had rested on a bed of down. A little before sunrise we were waked by the veteran, who had come to partake of our breakfast, and shew us the town. Not having stripped, we soon made our appearance at the table, where he had provided half a dozen small loaves, some baccalo, and a quantity of dried grapes; he had also boiled a large iron kettle of coffee, but there being no sugar or milk at hand, we were glad to substitute some flasks of Teneriffe for our beverage.

Oratava

Oratava is situated on the declivity of a rugged hill, gradually sloping to the sea, and commands a fine view of the bay, which from the number of shoals, will only admit ships of a small draught of water, and here merchantmen of this description generally anchor, as wine, fruits, and vegetables, are procured at Oratava much cheaper than at Santa Cruz. It is certainly the most fertile side of the island, and, in a great measure, supplies all the rest. Nothing can be more charming or romantically situated than this delightful spot! the houses are low, but remarkably neat, and of white stone. On one side the street runs a pleasant rivulet from a copious spring of the clearest and sweetest water, which, in its progress over a rugged pavement, murmurs most agreeably along. Hills rising above hills, crowned with woods of the most luxuriant foliage, and beautifully canopied with variegated clouds; and the stupendous Peak, towering its majestic head above the whole, forms a prospect most sublimely interesting.

The surrounding vallies, adorned with vineyards, and watered by innumerable streams, forming natural cascades, complete the picture.

At noon we began to think of returning to the ship; and taking leave of Don Gasparo, the old soldier, we reached Santa Cruz by sunset, and one of the boats being luckily on shore, immediately went on board, highly gratified with our excursion.

CHAPTER III.

THE ships having completed their watering, the signal was made for every person belonging to the fleet to repair on board their respective vessels, and the next morning the signal to get under weigh : with a pleasant breeze, we soon lost sight of the land. We steered to the south-west till we were in the meridian of St. Jago, when we shaped our course with an intention of coming to an anchor in Port-au-Praya Bay ; but when we opened the bay were taken aback, and a stiff breeze blowing direct in our teeth, it was thought that an attempt to gain the bay would be attended with some risk and much loss of time ; it was therefore determined to give up the idea, and a signal was made for that purpose. We then shaped our course to the southward, and as we crossed the Equinoctial Line, the ceremony of shaving and ducking was punctually observed : at noon, a hoarse voice hailed the ship, as from the sea, with “ Ho ! the ship, ho ! ” which was answered by one stationed for the purpose, with “ Hallo ! what ship’s that ? ” “ The Albemarle. ” “ I don’t recollect her passing this way before—I shall come on board and examine her. ” Upon which half a dozen most grotesque figures entered the ship, as if from the bosom of the deep ; having previously slung a grating under each bow as a stage to ascend from ; with great solemnity they proceeded to the quarter deck : the principal personages were Neptune and Amphitrite, attended by their nymphs and nereids, personated by the oldest seamen in the ship, but so disfigured with red ochre, robes, and wigs made of ravelled spun yarn, that it was
a difficult

a difficult matter to recognize their persons. After receiving a double toll from the captain, it being the first time of the ship's crossing the line, consisting of half a gallon of liquor, and two pounds of sugar, they, in turn, questioned every person on deck. When any one said he had crossed before, and had not, his watery majesty, with great dignity, turning to one of his attendants, who held a large book, said, "Look if you have this gentleman down in my log book?" which being answered in the negative, the rum and sugar was instantly demanded. When it came to my turn, my friend, the captain, desired them to put my quota down to him. Having finished with the quarter-deck, they proceeded to the examination of their own comrades, after having prepared for the ceremony of treating those who could not pay with a view of Neptune's cellar; for this purpose they had made a tackle fast to the main-yard-arm, through which they rove a rope, with an iron crow made fast to the end for a seat. The only exhibition was on the person of the cook, who not being of the most conciliatory disposition, most of the ship's company owed him a grudge; and as he peremptorily refused to pay, although in his power, they placed him on the crow, and brought the yard-rope between his legs, making another fast round him, to prevent a possibility of his falling; they then swung him off, and running him close up to the yard, souped the poor devil from the height of near fifty feet into the water; this they performed thrice: when they took him on board he was so much exhausted that his life was thought in danger, which put an end to this part of the ceremony, and the other defaulters were let off with only a shaving, performed by Neptune, and his assistants:

assistants : the party was seated on a piece of board placed across a large tub ; the razor, part of an iron hoop, and the soap not the finest Windsor, but a composition of tar, tallow, and every filth they could collect : the disagreeableness of this operation, exclusive of the smart, the hand of the shaver not being of the lightest, occasions a struggle to get from under it, in which the board whereon he is seated gives way, and poor pillgarlick is unexpectedly emerged over head and ears in bilge water. Those destined for this operation are kept close prisoners, so that they are totally ignorant of what they are to go through, but when the ordeal is once passed, they think no more of it, but shake their ears, and assist in carrying on the joke. The forfeits made them all as merry as grigs, and the day closed with dancing and songs on the forecastle, and every body (the cook excepted) forgot their temporary mortifications, and joined in the evening's conviviality.

A most favorable breeze wafted us pleasantly along till we made Cape Frio : at midnight we were abreast of the Cape, which is a small island, distant two or three miles from the main land. We had very little wind and variable weather between the Cape and Rio Janeiro, a distance of fifty or sixty miles. A spurt of wind from the sea, carried us within the islands, when we came to an anchor off the harbour's mouth. The next morning the agent went on shore to wait on the viceroy, and in the afternoon we weighed and sailed into the harbour ; as we passed the fort we saluted them with thirteen guns, which was returned by eleven, (we not being a man of war) and came to an anchor abreast the town. The ships in general were remarkably healthy, and had

had hitherto buried but few of the convicts; in our passage from Teneriffe to this place we lost only four men and one woman, which is a very inconsiderable number, considering their confined state, change of climate, and unwholesomeness of living so long entirely on salt provisions. Fresh meat and vegetables were brought from the shore immediately on our coming to an anchor, and several country boats, with pines, bananas, oranges, and every species of tropical fruits, came alongside, of which the convicts had a certain proportion served them; the fruits being in such plenty, that the expence of distributing a few to each individual every morning was very inconsiderable. The harbour is very commodious, and will contain almost any number of ships, where they may ride in perfect security from bad weather. The city of St. Sebastian is tolerably large, and regularly built; but from its being situated on low swampy ground, surrounded by high hills, it is entirely excluded from the refreshing sea and land breezes, so that in the summer months it is insupportably hot, and of course very unhealthy. Some few of the streets are pretty wide, but in general they are rather too narrow; the square opposite the landing-place is spacious, and on the south side stands the palace of the Viceroy, a very handsome stone building, and is said to be very richly ornamented within. The inside of the churches are decorated with the utmost profusion, and most of them furnished with an excellent organ, and tolerable good pictures over the different altars.

Here mechanics and tradesmen carry on their business in distinct parts of the town, particular streets being appropriated for particular trades:

here you will find a whole street of gunsmiths, another of taylors, a third of carpenters, &c. &c.

The numerous forts and batteries which surround St Sebastian, give it an air of strength; but an enemy getting possession of the island of Cobres, which is very near to and overlooks the town, assisted by a few large ships, for which there is plenty of water, would soon oblige it to capitulate.

The produce and exports of Rio Janeiro are gold, sugar, rice, coffee, and most of the valuable drugs: we took a collection of seeds, and some young shoots of the tamarind, banana, orange, lemon, and guava trees, in order to try them on the soil of New South Wales.

CHAPTER IV.

WE lay here about three weeks when the sick being pretty well recovered, the ships replenished with water, and loaded with vegetables and fruits of all kinds, the signal was made for sailing, and for the first three or four days we proceeded with a brisk north-easterly wind, when suddenly it became dark and cloudy, with tremendous peals of thunder, and vivid flashes of lightning from every part of the horizon, attended with violent squalls of wind, but of no long continuance. At day-break the wind shifted to the southward, and we had a series of fine weather till we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, on the twentieth of July, and about sunset came to an anchor in Table-Bay.

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This being the last port we could touch at for refreshments during the remainder of the voyage, all hands set to work to procure such articles as they might stand in need of, as well for their present consumption, as for their future comfort in the new colony.

Early in the morning the Captain ordered the pinnance to be manned, and went on shore; from whence he returned about noon, and sending for me aft, gave me an order on a merchant in Cape Town for one hundred dollars; at the same time telling me that I might at any time take the opportunity of the boats going on shore, to visit the town as often as I pleased, only speaking to the officer on deck when I was so disposed. The confidence he reposed in me struck me more forcibly than the money, and I was really so confused that I could scarcely articulate my acknowledgments.

During our stay here I visited the town almost every day, taking care to be on board by sunset; and laid out the money I had received in such articles as were most in request in New Holland.

On entering a house in Cape Town, you are always presented with a Sopi, that is to say, a glass of arrack, geneva, or perhaps French brandy; geneva, however, is the common morning dram. Before they sit down to table, the etiquette is to offer a Sopi of white wine, in which aloes or wormwood have been steeped, to create an appetite, at table they drink wine and beer indiscriminately. The beer is much esteemed, but they place a higher value on English porter. After the desert, which is always plentifully supplied, they bring pipes and tobacco, and continue drinking and smoking till late in the evening. This is their usual manner of living, with the exception

tion of those in indifferent circumstances, who drink their own wine; but in this particular the vanity of the inhabitants is often highly ridiculous; one day as I was walking with an acquaintance I had made at the Cape, he made me observe a man seated at the door of his house, who seeing we were near him, began calling to his slave to bring him some red wine, though he assured me he had not a single drop in his house, and that most likely he had not tasted wine ten times in his life. When we had passed a little way, I turned and saw that his slave had brought him a glass of beer, which he with great ostentation deliberately drank off. For twelve miles round the Cape the colonists do not employ the Hottentots, chusing rather to purchase negroes, who are more industrious and trust-worthy. The Hottentot, careless and inconstant by nature, often go away from their master on the prospect of hard work, and frequently leave them in embarrassment; the negroes desert also, but vain are their efforts to regain their liberty; they are soon retaken, and sent to the bailiff of the canton, from whom they are redeemed by the proprietor for a small sum. Their correction is much less severe than one would expect; indeed there are few places where slaves are treated with more humanity than at the Cape.

The Creole slaves are most esteemed at the Cape, and fetch double the price of any other: if they are initiated in any business, their price is exorbitant. A good cook is worth from eight to twelve hundred rix-dollars: mechanics double that sum; and others in proportion. They are commonly neatly dressed, but walk barefoot, as a mark of slavery. There are none of that insolent tribe called footmen; luxury and pride
not

not having yet introduced that useless lumber in the antichambers of the opulent.

The negroes of Madagascar and Mofambique are looked upon as the most ingenious and best workmen; they are also the most affectionate and faithful to their masters; when they are first landed at the Cape, they usually sell for one hundred and fifty piastres a head. The Indians are more employed in household work in the town; there are also some Malaysians, but they are the most subtle and dangerous of all other slaves, frequently assassinating their masters or mistresses. When taken, they go to execution with the greatest indifference. I heard one of these wretches publicly declare, at the place of execution, that he was glad he had committed the crime, as they were only going to send him to his native country: it is a matter of wonder with me, that these ideas are not productive of much greater mischiefs.

I frequently dined at a table d'Hôte, or ordinary, where I fell in with a very intelligent Frenchman, who had traversed great part of the interior of the country, and from time to time related many entertaining particulars; from among which I selected the following account of one of his journeys to the country of the Auteniquas, which I hope will not appear tedious to my readers.

“ A traveller having arrived at the Cape, and signifying his intention of visiting the interior of the country, I immediately offered him my services. The bargain was soon struck, and I instantly set about procuring the necessary articles for the journey. We set out on our expedition in the middle of December, when I led the way towards Dutch Hottentote, our company consist-
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ing of four horses, two of which were mounted by my master, and myself, the others by two Hottentots, in case any accident should befall ours; there were three other natives, and each his dog: we stopped at the decline of day at the foot of those high mountains that border the east of the Cape.

“ After two days journey we passed a little rivulet, and arrived at a wood called Le Bois de Grand Pere, near the country of the Auteniquas, which we found inhabited from the summit of the mountains to the water's edge by the colonists, who breed vast quantities of cattle, make butter, gather honey, and cut wood for fuel, as well as for the mechanic; these articles are all sent to the Cape. It is astonishing that these people who have such plenty of timber, do not build themselves tenable houses, instead of being content with miserable huts, formed of hurdles covered with earth. The skin of a buffalo, stretched on four stakes, serves for a bed; a mat closes the door way, which is also the window; two or three clumsy stools, some pieces of plank joined together make their table, and an ill-made box, of about two feet square, compose the whole furniture of one of these dens. In other respects these people live luxuriously; they have plenty of game and fish, and enjoy the advantage over the other colonists, in having all the year without interruption their gardens well stocked with all kinds of vegetables.

“ These advantages are owing to the goodness of the soil, and the natural waterings from the various rivulets that wind and cross each other in a thousand different directions, laying under contribution, if it may be so expressed, the four seasons of the year.

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“ In searching for a touraco, which Monsieur my master had shot, he fell into a pit upwards of twelve feet deep, which had been dug by the Hottentots, to entrap wild beasts, particularly the elephant. Fortunately the hole was empty, and he had the good fortune to escape being impaled alive on the pointed stakes fixed at the bottom of these pits: they are generally slightly covered over with slender branches of trees, and the interstices filled with turf and moss; the roots most anxiously sought after by the elephant are strewed on the surface, and the unwieldy animal eagerly pressing forward after his favourite food, is easily entrapped by the wily Hottentot into the snare: being wounded by his fall, he is soon dispatched.

“ After many fruitless efforts to extricate himself, I being at some distance with the Hottentots, he fired his fusée, and by that means brought us back to his assistance. This accident, however serious, did not prevent him pursuing the wounded bird, which at length he found, and considered the acquisition as a full compensation for all his perils. The touraco is as agreeable in its form, as in the sweetness and melody of its notes; it is of a bright green, a tuft of the same colour, bordered with white, adorns its head; its eyes a sparkling red, with a streak over them of the most dazzling white; its wings are a beautiful purple, varying to the violet, according to the point of light in which it is viewed. It is reckoned by the naturalists a species of the cuckoo; but they have been much mistaken, as it has not the least affinity with that bird. The cuckoo, in every part of the world, subsists on snails and insects, but the touraco is frugivorous. In whatever part of the world the cuckoo may be, it is remarkable

remarkable that she never builds a nest, but lays her eggs in those of other birds, and by this means saves herself the trouble of rearing her young; the touraco, on the contrary, is careful of its family, builds a nest, and hatches her own eggs; this difference in their disposition is, I think, a sufficient reason to prove them a particular species.

CHAPTER V.

WE had scarce recovered from this accident when one of the Hottentots came running up to me, and said he had discovered the haunt of an elephant. After some hours fatigue, painfully tracing him through a thick part of the wood, rendered almost impassable from the thorns and briars, we arrived at an open part of the forest, in which was a clump of shrubs and underwood: here we stopped while one of the Hottentots ascended a tree: after looking round him, he clapped his finger on his mouth as a token for us to be silent, then by opening and closing his hand several times (a signal before agreed upon) gave us to understand how many elephants he had discovered.

“ We now held a council of war, the result of which was, that the person who had seen them from the tree should lead us as near as possible through the bushes to the spot where he had discovered them. In a few minutes I was very near one of those enormous animals, which I did not immediately perceive, not that fear had fascinat-
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ed my sight, but that I could scarce believe that the prodigious immoveable mass beneath me was the animal we had so much wished to encounter. It should be observed we were on a hillock which raised us above the back of the animal: I still kept looking farther on, and rather took what was so near me for a fragment of rock than a living creature. The Hottentot now cried out, "See, see there! there he is," with a tone of the utmost impatience. At length a slight motion caught my eye, and immediately after the head and tusks, which the enormous body had in part concealed, were turned towards me; Monsieur, who was close behind me, without losing time, let fly at him; I immediately followed his example, and both shots took place in his head; he staggered and fell: the noise frightened the rest, and they, to near the number of thirty, scampered off as fast as their unwieldy corporations would permit them. This was but the prelude to a more animated scene.

"While we were examining the animal we had killed another passed just by us, which was fired at by one of the Hottentots, and by the blood which trickled down his huge shoulders I imagined he was mortally wounded, and immediately pursued him. He would have laid down, but was prevented by our repeated firing; he then took to the thickest part of the wood; we followed him into a thicket, in which was a number of decayed trees, that had fallen thro' age. The beast now became enraged from the number of his wounds, and made furiously at a Hottentot who had just discharged his piece at him, and in an instant trod him to death, and thrusting one of his tusks into the body, with a toss threw it upwards of thirty yards from him. We were
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about five and twenty paces from the poor fellow, my master a few paces behind me. I was too much encumbered for speed, my carbine being very heavy, and having a good deal of ammunition, together with a net containing several large birds, slung across my shoulder: I ran with all my might, but the enraged animal no sooner cast his angry eyes on me, than he pursued me at a full gallop, and gained ground every instant. More dead than alive through fear, abandoned by the Hottentots, who chequed by the fate of their comrade, were less courageous than usual, the only chance I had was to lie down close to the trunk of a large tree that was near me, which I had scarce time to accomplish before the animal ran over it; but scared at the hooting of the Hottentots instantly stopped, as it were to listen. I could easily have hit him from my situation had I chose, but although my piece was loaded, I restrained firing; for though he had received so many wounds I despaired to disable him by a single shot, so kept my situation, every moment expecting to become a prey to the enraged beast.

“ The Hottentots having lost sight of me, as I lay close under the tree, not daring to stir, and not answering to their repeated cries, were persuaded I was already crushed to pieces, made the woods re-echo with their shouts. The elephant turning hastily round, passed me a second time, and, stepping over the tree not six yards from me, went off on a full gallop. I sprang on my feet as soon as he had passed, and, shewing myself to my companions, fired another shot after him, which did not stop his career, but rushing into the thickest part of the woods, disappeared.

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“ The report of my piece was an universal signal of joy. I was immediately surrounded by the Hottentots, whose countenances beamed the most lively and disinterested emotions of gladness: my master in the most affectionate terms expressed his satisfaction at my escape, pressing me eagerly in his arms. Night drawing on, we returned to find the elephant we had killed in the morning. The carcase was already in possession of several large birds of prey, who had lost no time, having already made great progress in its dissection.

“ Fires were now quickly kindled; and our attendants after having pitched the tent, began to shew their skill in cooking. They cut off several steaks to broil for themselves, dressing a part of the trunk for us: it was the first time I had ever tasted this kind of food, but I determined it should not be the last, as I thought it delicious. Having settled the necessary preliminaries of watching round the tent, we went to rest, with as much composure as though we were at an inn; nor were we disturbed till sunrise, when we set forward on our journey. As we passed a small river we met a company of Hottentots, of about a score, who had fled from the wars of the Caffres. By our guides we learnt that those people are most vilely calumniated: the perpetual vexations and tyranny of the colonists gave rise to those wars, in which the Caffres have been represented as ferocious animals, nurtured with human gore, sparing neither age nor sex, and totally regardless of the rights of hospitality. The colonists often form pretences of losing their cattle, purposely to make inroads into the Caffree settlements, exterminating whole hordes without distinction of age or sex, carrying away their

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herds,

herds, and laying waste the country; this being an easier method of obtaining cattle than rearing them.

“ In destroying a small settlement at Caffres, a child of about twelve years of age escaped the general carnage, by concealing himself in a hollow tree, but, unfortunately, was discovered by one of the Marauders, who determined to make a slave of his prize. The commander of this barbarous detachment peremptorily laid claim to the little trembling prisoner; the captor as firmly refused to deliver him up, which so enraged the savage leader that he ran with the utmost fury at the innocent object of the dispute, exclaiming, “ If I must not have him, neither shalt thou !” and accompanied these words with a blow of his sabre, which laid the unfortunate victim dead at his feet.

“ About noon one of our people who had gone on some hundred yards before us, came running back with evident marks of confusion: on enquiring the cause, he told us there was a lion couching in a thicket a little a-head of us, and that he would certainly attack us if we proceeded. We immediately halted to consult what was to be done: Monsieur, desirous of adding the spoil of the king of the forests to his other acquisitions, decided on the attack. Accordingly the horses and dogs were given in charge to one of the natives to keep them back, and we, to the number of five, marched on, keeping a sharp look out. We had proceeded near half a mile, and finding nothing, concluded it was an imaginary lion, only in the idea of Eaco (the name of the Hottentot who had given us the intelligence), who having lately lost a very good mistress,

trefs, killed by one of those animals, was in continual dread of them.

“ Her habitation being on the skirts of a wood, one gloomy night the family was awakened by the lowing of the cattle, in an inclosure at a small distance from the house: they immediately seized their fire-arms, and running to the spot, found a lion had broken through the fence, and was making terrible havoc among the cattle. It was only necessary to enter the inclosure, and fire, to kill the animal; but neither of her sons, servants, or slaves, had sufficient courage to attempt it. The undaunted matron, therefore, entered alone, and armed with a musket, approached the scene of carnage: the darkness of the night prevented her perceiving the animal till she was close to him, when she courageously fired, but was so unfortunate as only to wound him; he instantly rushed upon her: the screams of the unfortunate mother brought her sons to her assistance. Furious, desperate, distracted, they flew upon the tremendous animal, and killed him, though too late to save her, and both fell breathless on the mangled body of their parent. Exclusive of the deep wounds she had received from the fangs and talons of the ferocious savage, he had bit one of her hands off at the wrist. Assistance was ineffectual; she died the same night amidst the vain lamentations of her pusillanimous sons and servants.

“ The remembrance of this scene had made so deep an impression on the mind of Eaco, and filled him with such apprehensions, that he had frequently teased his comrades with false alarms, of being near the dens of lions, and being sure of seeing them in such and such a thicket, so that at last they paid little or no regard to his representations,

representations, and, in the present instance, acquainted us with his disposition, and advised me to order the horses forward, and to continue our route, as we were three days from any habitation, and our provisions near exhausted. The trembling Eaco at this instant cried. "There, there!" when hearing a rustling among the bushes I hastily looked round, and saw the beast in the act of springing upon his prey, one of the Hottentots being within his reach, as swift as lightning he darted upon the poor fellow; but rather overleaping himself, in bringing him to the ground his fore-quarters extended so far over him, that his antagonist, with the utmost intrepidity and presence of mind, clasped him firmly round the middle, and pressing him to his breast, the animal was so situated that he could do him little or no injury; at this moment one of his comrades ran to his assistance, and clapping the muzzle of his piece to his ear, dispatched him instantaneously, and thus providentially delivered his fellow-servant unhurt from this imminent danger.

"This narrow escape, added to the loss of our man killed by the elephant, rather abated the ardour of our pursuit, and Monsieur began seriously to think of returning to the Cape, which we reached without any remarkable occurrence happening. In our way I shot an eagle of a species hitherto unknown, and considered as a great rarity by my master: it was of a bright black, with a ring of burnished gold round his neck, and seemed to resemble the vulture as much as the eagle, though different in some instances. Hunger changes the eagle into a vulture; that is to say, when it is hungry it will feed on putrified carrion. It is a vulgar error that this bird

bird only subsists by preying on others; for I have frequently seen eagles as well as other carnivorous birds, attracted by the offal of the beasts we had killed." He also related some particulars respecting the Hottentots, completely refuting the accounts of our geographical writers, who describe a most filthy custom used by the Hottentots at their marriage ceremonies, the priest being said to bestow publicly a urinary stream on the bride and bridegroom, in presence of all the assembled friends. The formalities of those marriages, he said, consisted in the promises they made each other to live together as long as they may find it convenient; the engagement made, the young couple from that moment are man and wife. They then kill some sheep, sometimes an ox, to celebrate this little holiday. The parents on both sides furnish the young couple with some cattle; they immediately apply themselves to the construction of a hut, forming an inclosure, and in getting together their little stock of necessaries. They live together as long as a good understanding subsist between them; for should any difference arise, which is not likely to subside, they make no scruple of separation, but part with as little ceremony as they met; and each, free to form fresh connexions, seeks elsewhere a more agreeable partner.

In cases of separation, the effects of the married pair are equally divided; but should the husband, in his quality of master, insist on retaining the whole, the wife never fails to find those who will assert and defend her right; her family interests itself, nor are the friends of the man idle; so that sometimes the whole horde is in a ferment; in the end they come to blows, and, as in all other places, the conquerors gives laws to the

the vanquished. The mother always has the care of the younger children, especially if they are girls, while the boys, who are able to follow their father, are sure to belong to him. These disagreements, however, are far from being common; and it is equally worthy of remark that they have no known law, or established custom, to which they can refer for the termination of their differences.

Among those Hottentots who are the most distant from the colonists, conjugal fidelity is held more sacred than among the polished offspring of refinement; though polygamy is not repugnant to the customs of the Hottentots, it is by no means common among them. They may take as many wives as they please; but whether from a love of peace, or any other motive, seldom have but one. Women are never known to cohabit with two men, Nature, that would ever have a man able to ascertain his own offspring, has wisely planted in the heart of a female Gonaquais Hottentot, an invincible aversion for such infamous prostitution; nay, so disgusting is it to these people, that a husband, on a knowledge of the most trifling infidelity of his wife, might kill her, without fear of incurring the reproach of his horde.

With ideas of honour such as these, the reader will the more easily be induced to discredit the assertions of many writers; that the Hottentots indulge in connexions of an incestuous nature. It being hinted that strong suspicions of this sort had been entertained of them, they shewed signs of the greatest detestation. "Do you take us for brutes?" said they, and immediately broke off all farther converse; nor could all we had to say prevail on them to forget the offence.

CHAPTER VI.

HAVING completely stored the ship with provisions and water, taken in six hundred casks of flour for the colony, and various other stores, the signal was made for the transports to be in readiness to get under weigh. I bade my new friend adieu, hastened on board, and the next morning we worked out of the bay. We had scarcely got a tolerable offing when a very heavy gale blew from the northward, and the sea soon ran mountains high. The vessel being deep loaded, we shipped some very heavy seas, which obliged us to lay too, near four-and-twenty hours.

I had often heard of the superstition of sailors respecting apparitions, but had never given much credit to the report; it seems that some years since a Dutch man of war was lost off the Cape, and every soul on board perished: her consort weathered the gale, and arrived soon after at the Cape. Having refitted, and returned to Europe, they were assailed by a violent tempest nearly in the same latitude. In the night watch some of the people saw, or imagined they saw, a vessel standing for them under a press of sail, as though she would run them down: one in particular affirmed it was the ship that had foundered in the former gale; and that it must certainly be her, or the apparition of her; but on its clearing up, the object, a dark thick cloud, disappeared. Nothing could do away the idea of this phenomenon on the minds of the sailors; and, on their relating the circumstances when they arrived at port, the story spread like wild-fire, and the supposed phantom was called the Flying Dutchman. From the
Dutch

Dutch the English seamen got the infatuation, and there are very few Indiamen, but what has some one on board, who pretends to have seen the apparition.

About two in the morning I was waked by a violent shake by the shoulder, when starting up in my hammock, I saw the boatswain, with evident signs of terror and dismay in his countenance, standing by me. "For God's sake, messmate," said he, "hand us the key of the case, for, by the Lord, I'm damnably scarified: for, d'ye see, as I was just looking over the weather bow, what should I see but the Flying Dutchman coming right down upon us, with every thing set—I know 'twas she—I could see all her lower deck ports up, and the lights fore and aft, as if cleared for action. Now as how, d'ye see, I am sure no mortal ship could bear her lower deck ports up, and not founder in this here weather: Why the sea runs mountains high. It must certainly be the ghost of that there Dutchman, that foundered in this latitude, and which, I have heard say, always appears in this here quarter, in hard gales of wind."

After taking a good pull or two at the Hollands, he grew a little composed, when I jokingly asked him, if he were afraid of ghosts? Why, as to that, dy'e see,"—said he, "I think as how, I'm as good as another man, but I'd always a terrible antipathy to those things. Even when I was a boy, I never could find it in my heart to cross a church-yard in the dark without whistling and hallooing to make them believe I had company with me, for I've heard say they appear but to one at a time; for now, when I called to Joe Jackson, who was at the helm, to look over the weather-bow, he saw nothing; tho', as how,
I saw

I saw it as plain as this here bottle," taking another swig at the geneva.

Having some curiosity to see if I could make out any thing that could take such an appearance, I turned out, and accompanied him upon deck; but it had cleared up, the moon shining very bright, and not a cloud to be seen; though, by what I could learn from the rest of the people who were on deck, it had been very cloudy about half an hour before, of course I easily divined what kind of phantom had so alarmed my mess-mate. The sea running very high, and the gale rather increasing, we continued to lay to, and in the morning found we had parted company with the rest of the transports, not one being discernable from the mast head.

The wind abating in the afternoon, and coming to the north-west, we bore away under a reefed fore-sail: and it continuing to blow a very strong gale, we jogged on in this manner about ten days, when the weather moderating we crouded all the sail we could make from this time till we made Van Dieman's land, of which we frequently saw in the night the sea covered with luminous spots, resembling lights floating on the surface, and I immediately imagined that it might have been some of these which the boat-swain had seen through a passing cloud, and which he magnified into lanterns on a ship's lower-deck, as in some points of view they had very much that appearance.

Whether these shining spots proceed from the spawn of fish floating in small quantities, or from an animal of a jelly-like substance, called by the sailors, blubber, is not determined, though I am of the latter opinion; vast shoals of them surrounded the ship in the course of the day.

Numbers

Numbers of sea birds now hovered over us, such as albatrosses ; gulls of various species ; and a large black bird, greatly resembling a crow, but rather bigger. In the evening the horizon was beautifully illumined by the Aurora Austrealis, or southern lights : they were of a bright crimson, variegated with orange, yellow, and white streaks, continually changing their hues, and presenting a most sublime and animating picture.

The next morning at day-break, the man at the mast head cried out, " Land, ho !" which agreeable sound re-echoed through the ship ; and it clearing up we found ourselves close in with it. It appeared a bold even shore, with some hills inland, pleasantly ornamented with tall strait trees, supposed to be cabbage or palm trees, from only having branches near the top.

We sailed along the coast for some leagues, in the course of which we saw some pretty deep bays. We now stretched off in order to get a good offing, and to weather some rocks about three leagues from the shore, being afraid of passing too near them in the dark.

At day-light they appeared about six miles on our lee-beam. Here we perceived a number of seals playing and sporting alongside ; they were in general of the size of a common dog, with a long head, tapered to the nose like a greyhound ; they frequently raise themselves half the length of their body out of the water, turning round as it were to reconnoitre, and sometimes in their gambols leaped entirely out. We took our leave of these sportive gentry, and shaping our course for New Holland, before sunset lost sight of the land.

CHAPTER VII.

A FAVOURABLE flant of wind enabled us to make the land of New South Wales on the 12th of October, about 8 leagues distant. We stood on till we were within about six or seven miles from the shore, and then ranged pleasantly along the coast. At noon we were abreast of a point of land, called Red Point, only ten leagues distant from Botany Bay. About two leagues to the southward of the Bay is a chain of chalky hills, over-topped by level land. On this land is a clump of trees, something like Postdown-hill, in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth. The wind springing up to the eastward, we stood from the land, under an easy sail, till day-light, when we were quite abreast of the Bay ; and, at noon, on the 13th, came to an anchor in Port Jackson, about five or six leagues to the northward of it.

At ten o'clock the next morning the convicts were all ordered on shore ; their appearance was truly deplorable, the generality of them being emaciated by disease, and those who laboured under no bodily disorder, from the scantiness of their allowance, were in no better plight. The boats from all the ships in the harbour attended, in order to land them ; there were in all two hundred and fifty men, six women, and a convict's wife and child who had obtained permission to accompany her husband. We lost during the voyage thirty-two men. Upon their landing they were entirely new cloathed from the King's store, and their old things were all burnt, in order to prevent any infectious disorder that might have
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been in the ship, from being introduced into the colony.

From the report of the captain I had a most gracious reception from the governor; he told me that on account of my behaviour on board, he would place me in a situation that should render my exile from England as little irksome as possible, and that if I continued to deserve it, I might rely on his favour and protection: for the present I might return on board, and as soon as any boat could be spared from the ship, it should convey me and what things I had, up to Paramatta, where a habitation should be provided for me. The next morning I received orders again to attend the governor at Sidney Cove, and to put my property in charge of a serjeant of marines, who came off in a large boat, and who was to see it safely lodged in the public store, till such time as I should be settled, and able to take care of it myself.

I took leave of my messmates with unfeigned regret, the captain himself accompanied me on shore, and waited on the governor with me. His excellency said, he had long wanted a proper person as superintendant of the convicts at Paramatta, that he had appointed me to that office, and that I should take charge of the farm-house there. When I was dismissed, the serjeant took me to his house, where I partook of a good fish dinner; and, it being some time before we could set off for my future residence, we took a walk round the Cove, where some considerable buildings have been erected, for the governor, the lieutenant-governor, the judge-advocate, and the greatest part of the officers.

The governor's house is of stone, near seventy feet in front, and makes a very handsome appearance

ance. The houses of the officers are of brick; the rest are generally log-houses, plaistered; the roofs are either shingled or thatched. Here is also an hospital, a good temporary building, and also barracks for the soldiers, and comfortable cabins for the officers, with gardens adjoining; but unluckily these gardens are not very productive, as the soil is very indifferent; and to this inconvenience must be added the depredations of rats and thieves. A mile or two from the Cove, the soil is considerably better, where the officers and others have little farms; there are also brick-kilns, and a pottery, both of which articles they would bring to tolerable perfection, were they possessed of the materials used to glaze their earthen-ware. I wonder there are not more stone buildings here, stone resembling that of Portland, being at hand in great abundance, exceedingly soft, but hardens very much after it is wrought, and exposed to the weather.

Not being able to proceed till the morning, I flung my cot in a corner of the serjeant's house, and spent the evening with him; we rose at day-break, and re-embarking my effects, left Sidney Cove about eight o'clock in the morning, and arrived at Paramatta about noon. Two or three miles before you come to the town, the river is quite narrow, not more than six or eight yards across, and the banks so high that you can scarce see the face of the country. Where they were lower it had very much the appearance of a park or a gentleman's pleasure ground. In our progress we saw several kangaroos, but had a very imperfect glance of them; the grass being long, entirely hid them from our view, except when they were in the act of leaping.

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We landed about a quarter of a mile from the town, and walked up to it; it is situated on an elevated spot in the form of a crescent; a strong redoubt is constructed, where there are very good barracks for a detachment of the military, which is always on duty here; as well to preserve good order and regularity among the convicts, as a check upon the natives, who from the distance to Sidney Cove might be tempted to molest the settlers, were there no armed force to protect them; they have little apprehension from the natives, as they have never shewn any inclination to attack armed men; not that they are destitute of courage, but that they are perfectly convinced of the great and invincible superiority of our fire-arms. After a short walk we arrived at the house appropriated for me; it is a compact little cottage, with four room in it; the situation is most delightful, being in the midst of pleasant gardens, the convicts houses form a line in front, at some distance, they have each a small garden, and those who have been industrious seem very comfortable, as their day's work is not so hard as many working mens' in England.

A servant who kept the house gave us some refreshments, after which I waited on the commanding officer of the troops on duty here, and presented a letter given me by the governor; my reception was as agreeable as I could expect, he told me that the next day he would cause the convicts to be mustered in my presence, and inform them of my situation, as superintendant, and would then give me some instructions necessary to regulate my future proceedings.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VIII.

IN the morning a general muster took place; when the whole were assembled, to the amount of near four hundred; they were informed by the officer of the trust the governor had been pleased to repose in me, and that any misbehaviour or disobedience of orders issuing from me would be as severely punished as though they proceeded from the governor himself: they were then dismissed to their several employments. I proceeded through the different gangs of people at their respective occupations; and found them much more attentive to their business and respectful to those over them than I could possibly have imagined. Some were employed in making bricks and tiles; others, building store-houses, huts, &c. a great number clearing the grounds, bringing in timber, and making roads. Others at their different callings, such as smiths, gardeners, coopers, shoemakers, taylor, bakers, attendants on the sick, &c. The hours of work are from sunrise to half past seven, when they breakfast; at half past eight they resume their work 'till half past eleven, when they are rung to dinner; at two they recommence their labours, and the setting of the sun is the signal that terminates their daily toil, and which is announced by the drum beating a retreat. In order to encourage the cultivation of gardens, Saturday is appropriated to clear away and cultivate spots of ground for themselves; and those who have been industrious now find the benefit, by having plenty of vegetables, which saves their salt provisions, and enables them to truck with the natives for

fish. Independent of this advantage, those who rear the greatest quantities of vegetables and plants, receive premiums from the governor, who, at the proper season of the year, distributes seeds among them for that purpose. The women sweep round the huts every morning, and cook the victuals for the men, collect all their dirty clothes, and return each man his respective linen, washed and mended, on the Sunday morning.

No person is excused from attending divine worship, which is performed every Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, when all the convicts are obliged to attend in clean linen, and, indeed, behave in a more orderly and devout manner than would be naturally expected; indeed, the indefatigable zeal and wise measures pursued by the worthy governor in the formation of this infant colony is beyond all praise.

I had some apprehensions than from my former situation in life I should have been exposed to many mortifications, although shielded by the protection of my office; but I saw few faces who recollected me, and those who did behaved in the most respectful manner. The greater part of those who came over with me were sent to Norfolk Island, and those that were left remained at Sidney Cove.

My business was chiefly to report the progress made in the different works carrying on at Paramatta: for which purpose I was furnished with abstracts from a kind of overseers or head man of the various gangs; and in less than a week, was as much at home, and as perfectly master of the business, as though I had been coeval with the colony.

From

From a necessary and well regulated discipline, the convicts who had come over in the first ships had been brought into the excellent order above described; but many severe examples were made ere they were reduced to order, and various knaveries and tricks played on the officers; but punishment never failed to attend the detection of their frauds. In the infancy of the settlement, a convict had industriously spread a report that he had discovered a gold mine, which at first gained credit as the ore pretended to have been found had something of the appearance of gold ore.

The circumstance was as follows: one Dailey, a convict, had, he pretended, discovered a piece of ground which contained a considerable quantity of gold ore, some of which was produced, tried, and found to contain a small portion of gold. The governor was absent at this time on an excursion into the country: the report coming to the ears of the lieutenant-governor, he examined the pretended discoverer, who told his story with the greatest plausibility, and it was not doubted but an important discovery had been made. Dailey was interrogated as to the place, but refused to give the necessary information till the return of the governor, to whom he would give a full and satisfactory account of the discovery, on a promise that he would grant him what he should think equivalent to the importance of the discovery, and which he, Dailey, conceived a small compensation for so valuable an acquisition: the demand was, his own and a particular woman convict's enlargement, and a passage in one of the first ships to England, together with a sum of money. The lieutenant-governor told him that unless he pointed out the spot

spot he should consider him as an impostor, and ordered him to instant punishment, for daring to impose upon those officers to whom he had related the business. The dread of punishment disposed him to come to a little, though not without apparent reluctance : he proposed to the lieutenant-governor that an officer should be sent down the harbour with him, for the treasure, he said, lay in the lower part of the harbour, and near the sea-shore ; and he would shew the officer the exact spot ; accordingly he was taken at his word, and an officer, with a corporal, and two or three soldiers, were sent with him ; he pointed out the landing-place, whence he said it was but a short walk to the desired spot. They entered the wood, but had scarce got among the bushes, which were very thick, than he begged leave to turn aside, as though he had a pressing occasion ; this was granted him : the officer continued waiting for him, but to no purpose ; for as soon as he had gone out of their reach he pushed off towards Sidney Cove by land, leaving the officer and his soldiers to beat their heels, and cursed their credulity in letting him out of their sight.

The officer having dispatched the boat back on their landing, intending to return on foot, was left in no very enviable situation. Mr. Dailley reached Sidney in the afternoon, and informed the lieutenant-governor that he had left those whom he had sent down with him in entire possession of the gold mine ; he then got a few things from his own tent, and disappeared. The party, after searching some hours for the cheat, marched round to the camp, where they arrived at dusk, heartily tired, and not a little chagrined at the trick the villain had put upon them.

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The want of provisions soon brought the discoverer back to the settlement, and a severe flogging was the reward of his ingenuity; however he still persisted in having made the discovery which he before had mentioned, and his reason for quitting the officer who went with him was, that he was sure if he made the discovery to the governor himself he should certainly get what he had demanded.

When the governor returned he was made acquainted with the business, and another officer was sent with him, although there was not a person in the colony who had the least faith in his assertions. The officer who now accompanied him informed him, on landing from the boat, that if he offered to quit him for an instant he would put him to death. This determination so terrified the gold-finder, that he acknowledged the imposture: he was then interrogated respecting the ore which he had produced. He confessed he had filed down part of a yellow metal buckle, and had mixed it with some gold filings from a broken ring, which he had got from one of the convict women, all which he had blended with some earth, and made it hard. The man who tried the ore had been a silversmith, and on separating the different parts he discovered a small quantity of gold contained therein: the cheat received a second punishment for his perseverance, and a recommendation to be very attentive to his duty, and not attempt any more tricks as he valued his neck.

Having a good deal of time on my hands, my attendance and inspection being generally finished in the forenoon, I frequently visited the farms of the settlers; these in general were convicts whose term of transportation had expired, and had had lands granted them, in the following proportions:

proportions : thirty acres to every single man ; fifty to the married ones ; and ten more for every child : they received provisions and clothing from the public stores for the first eighteen months : the necessary tools and implements of husbandry, with seeds and grain to sow the ground the first year ; two young sow pigs were also given to each settler, and a pair or two of fowls. On those conditions twenty-seven of them had commenced farming in the neighbourhood of Paramatta, Prospect-hill, and at some ponds about two miles to the northward. At this time these settlements had little the appearance of farms ; but as there were many very industrious and careful men among them, their stock soon began to thrive, and the face of the country show evident signs of culture.

In my walks I often fell in with the kangaroos, of which there are great numbers ; they are about the size of a common deer, of a dark tan colour ; its head, I think, resembles that of the mocock from the East Indies. The hind legs are much longer than the fore, and with them they leap and spring forward with amazing rapidity, their fore feet being seldom seen to touch the ground ; and, indeed they are so very short, that it is not possible the animal can make great use of them in running ; they have prodigious force in their tail, which is a principal part of their defence ; when attacked, they strike a blow with this weapon sufficient to break the leg of a man, or the back of a dog ; it also assists them in their springs, which are truly surprizing. The native dog is much swifter than the kangaroo, and will attack them with great courage : the chase is seldom of long duration, the kangaroo being soon tired, and is generally overtaken in less than a quarter

quarter of an hour. When seized, if they have no opportunity of using the tail to advantage, they turn upon the dog, and catching hold with the talons of his fore-paws, he flies at and strikes his adversary with those of his hind-feet, which are long, sharp, and of great strength; and if the dog is not assisted, it frequently happens that they get the better.

I have frequently seen male kangaroos, which, when sitting on their haunches, would measure at least from five feet eight to five feet ten inches in height: such a one would, I think, overmatch any of the dogs; but I never ventured to try them singly. Having had several young native dogs given me, from time to time, I take great delight in kangaroo hunting; it is not only an agreeable exercise, but produces a dish for the table, nearly as good as mutton; and, in the present dearth of live stock, is not an unacceptable present.

The native dog greatly resembles the Pomernian breed; with their ears erect, they have a remarkable savage look, and are not unlike a wolf, both in size and appearance. There is no getting the better of their natural ferocity; for if you take ever such pains in rearing them, they will, at every opportunity destroy the sheep, pigs, or poultry, nor do I think it possible to break them of this savageness of temper, so that they are of little or no use, except in hunting the kangaroo.

I had many opportunities of getting acquainted with several of the natives; and, as I seldom saw them without giving them some trifle or other, soon became a great favourite with them, and mostly had one or other of them with me in my rambles. The men in general are from five feet
six

six to five feet nine inches high ; are rather slender, but strait, and well made. The women are not quite so tall, rather lustier, but are mostly well-made. Their colour is a brownish black, of a coffee-cast, but many of the women are almost as light as a mulatto : now and then you may meet with some of both sexes with pretty tolerable features ; but broad noses, wide mouths, and thick lips, are most generally met with ; their countenances are not the most prepossessing, and what renders them still less so, is, they are abominably filthy. They know no such ceremony as washing themselves, and their skin is mostly smeared with the fat of such animals as they kill, and afterwards covered with every sort of dirt ; sand from the beach, and ashes from their fires, all adhere to their filthy skin, which never comes off, except when accident, or the want of food obliges them to go into the water. Some of the men wear a piece of wood, or bone thrust through the septum of the nose, which, by raising the opposite sides of the nose, dilates the nostril, and spreads the lower part very much. Many of them want the two front teeth on the right side of the upper jaw : and I have seen several of the women who have lost the two first joints of the little finger of the left hand, a circumstance which I have never been able to discover the meaning of. This want of the little finger I observed in elderly women ; in girls of eight or nine years old ; in young women who have had children ; and in those who have had none. I have also observed that the finger has been perfect in individuals of all ages and descriptions. They have, in general, good teeth ; their hair is short, strong, and curly ; and they have no method of combing or cleaning it, it is

always

always filthy and matted: the mens' beards are short and curly like the hair of their heads. They all go entirely naked, men, women, and children, and seemed to have no fixed place of residence, but lay down wherever night overtakes them. Cavities in the rocks on the sea shore, are places they usually seek to shelter themselves from the wind and rain; and they mostly make a good fire before they go to sleep, by which means the rock round them becomes heated, and retains its warmth a considerable time, like an oven; and spreading a little dried grass they lie down and huddle together.

The men are generally armed with a lance, and a short stick which they use in throwing it; this stick is about a yard long, flat on one side, and a notch in one end, the other is furnished with a flat shell fixed into a split in the stick, made fast with a strong gum, which, when dry, is as hard as flint: on the flat side of the stick they place the lance, the butt end of which rests against the notch in the throwing stick; poising the lance thus fixed in one hand, binding it with the fore-finger and thumb to prevent its slipping off; keeping fast hold of the throwing stick, they hurl the lance with considerable force, and tolerably true, to the distance of seventy or eighty yards. Their lances are in general about ten feet long; the shell fixed on the throwing stick is intended for sharpening the point of their lance, and various other uses. Although they throw their lances with considerable velocity, I should think it no very difficult matter, being on one's guard, either to parry or get out of the way of them.

When they are upon any hostile expedition, they paint their faces and bodies with red and white
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streaks,

streaks, as if they intended to strike terror by their death-like appearance: some are mere lines drawn without attention or method; others with the greatest nicety and exactness. A few paces distance some have the appearance of being accoutred with cross belts: others with white circles round their eyes, and several horizontal lines across the forehead; others, again have narrow white lines across the body, with a broad streak down the middle of the back and belly, and a single line down the arm, thigh and leg. Being commonly marked with white, their black skins are seen very conspicuously between the lines, and at a short distance takes very much the appearance of a skeleton, and which, I suppose, is what they intend to represent. The colours they use are chiefly red and white, the first of which is a kind of ochre, or red earth, which is found here in abundance; the latter is a fine pipe clay, great quantities of which are used in the potteries established in the colony. The bodies of the men are much scarified, particularly about the breast and shoulders; and although not very regular, yet are considered as ornamental.

CHAPTER IX.

THE warriors thus armed and painted, range themselves in a line, with each a green bough in their hand, as a token that they do not mean to use force, unless obliged thereto, in their own defence, or in case their difference cannot be settled by an amicable agreement; a long parley generally

generally ensues, and concessions on both sides for the most part terminate their bloodless campaign.

Building themselves habitations never seem to have entered their imaginations, or any place to shelter them from the weather, though they have plenty of the most inclement; their indolence and want of foresight in this particular would be fatal to them, were it not for the liberal hand of nature, who has so abundantly supplied the sea shores with soft crumbly rocks, which, for the most part, are excavated by the washing of the sea, so as to form caves of very considerable dimensions; sometimes fifty or more of them find a comfortable lodging in one of these caves. In the woods where there are no rocks, they strip the bark off several trees, and cutting them into slips, fasten and interlace them to four stakes drove in the ground, bending broad pieces of the bark over the top to shelve off the rain: these commonly hold a family; and, as the weather is very cold in the winter months, they find it necessary to huddle very close for the benefit of the warmth, to which each individual naturally contributes a share. These huts are only used when they are out a kangaroo hunting; for in that season they employ themselves wholly in the woods.

Most of the large trees are hollow, by decaying at the heart; and when the opossum, kangaroo, rat, squirrel, and various other animals which inhabit the woods, are pursued, they commonly take shelter in these trees. In order, therefore, to make sure of them, wherein they seldom fail, when they find them in the tree, one man climbs to the top, which is performed with wonderful dexterity, in the following manner: they cut notches in the bark about an inch deep, which is a kind of rest for the great toe; the two first notches are

are cut before they begin to climb, the rest as they ascend, at such distances from each other, that when both feet are in the notches, the right is raised nearly as high as the middle of the left thigh; when they are raising themselves the hatchet is held in their mouths, that they may have the use of both their hands; and when making the notch the body rests on the ball of the great toe; the fingers of the left hand are also placed in a notch cut on the side of the tree, should it be too large to admit their clasping it sufficiently with the left arm to keep their body firm and close to it. In this manner they ascend with wonderful agility, trees fifteen or twenty feet in circumference, sometimes sixty or seventy feet before they come to a single branch.

Being arrived at the top, or the place he judges the most convenient, he takes his seat with his club or stick in his hand, another person below makes a fire and fills the hollow trunk with smoke, which obliges the animal to make his escape, either upwards or downwards, but which ever way it takes, it is almost certain of destruction, as they very seldom escape. In this manner they employ themselves, and get a livelihood in the woods. They, sometimes, when many of them are hunting together, set fire to the country for several miles in extent; this is for the purpose of disturbing such animals as may be within the circle of the conflagration: thus the affrighted animals, confounded, singed, and half-smothered, fall an easy prey to their persevering and sanguinary adversaries.

These fires, it is supposed, are sometimes intended to clear that part of the country through which they have occasion to travel, of the briars and thorns, from which, being naked, they suffer

fer great inconvenience. The fires which are frequently seen in the summer time, account also for an appearance which very much puzzled the first settlers; this was, that more than two-thirds of the trees in the woods were very much scorched with fire, some were burnt quite black to the very top; the cause of this occasioned great difference of opinion, but it is now evident that it was occasioned by the fires which the natives so frequently make, and which often reach the highest branches of the trees; I at first conjectured it to be the effect of lightning, but upon examining farther, it appeared too general to have been caused by such an accident.

Opossums are very numerous here: they partake a good deal of the kangaroo, in the strength of their tail, and make of its fore legs, which are very short in proportion to the hinder ones; like that animal it is provided with a false belly for the safety of its young in time of danger, and its colour very much resembles that of the common English rat; it is of the size of a small cat, and very inoffensive. There are a variety of other animals of different sizes, from the opossum down to our implacable enemy, the field rat, all of which in some shape or other, partake of the kangaroo and opossum. I have caught several rats with their pouch full of young ones, formed exactly in their legs, claws, and tail, as the above animals. One would almost conclude from the great resemblance of the different quadrupeds found here, that there is a promiscuous intercourse between the different sexes of all those various animals. This strange similarity does not attach solely to quadrupeds, for the finny inhabitants of the sea are in the same predicament, their variety is truly

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astonishing;

astonishing; most of them partake in some degree of the shark, and it is no uncommon thing to see the head and shoulders of a skait to the hind part of a shark, or a shark's head to the body of a large mullet, and what is more astonishing, sometimes to the flat body of a sting ray, or holi-bet.

Nature seems equally playful in the feathered tribe: the parrot is the most common. I have shot several, with the head, neck, and bill of the parrot, and with the same beautiful plumage on those parts for which that bird here is distinguished; a tail and body of a different make and colour, with long delicate feet and legs, which is quite the reverse of the parrot kind. There is also a bird with the feet and legs of a parrot, whose head, neck, make, and colour, are like the common sea-gull, with the wings and tail of the hawk. Neither is this confined to the animal creation; for here are trees bearing three different sorts of leaves; others bearing the leaf of the gum tree, with the gum exuding from it, and covered with bark of a very different kind.

The country abounds in birds of numberless species: those of the parrot kind, such as the macaw, cockatoo, lory, green parrot, and paroquets of different species and sizes, ornamented with the most gay and luxuriant plumage that can be conceived. The common crow is no stranger here, but is found in considerable numbers: the sound of their voice and manner of croaking is widely different from those in Europe. Hawks are in great plenty: pigeons, quails, and a great variety of small birds; but I have not seen any with an agreeable note.

There is also a very large bird, but it is not very common; at first they were taken for the ostrich,

ostrich, as they did not fly when pursued, but ran so exceedingly fast that a strong native dog could not overtake them: I shot one of them, which measured upwards of two yards and a half from its feet to the upward part of its head. The difference between this bird and the ostrich is in its bill, which is narrower at the point, and it has three toes, which is not the case with the ostrich, as I had an opportunity of seeing several of them at the Cape. It possesses one singularity by which it cannot fail of being known, which is, that two distinct feathers grow out from every quill. Its flesh, though not the most tender grained, is far from unacceptable: it resembles, when raw, neck beef; and a side-bone of this bird makes an excellent dinner for half a dozen. The crow, I think, relishes equally as well here as the barn fowl in England. I have sometimes, when on a shooting excursion, fallen in with the black swan: the extremity of their wings are white, and all the rest of their plumage a bright black; its bill a pale pink, or crimson: they are of the size of the common white swan, and are a delicate appendage to the table.

A prodigious quantity of bats have made their appearance during these two last years; they are generally seen about Rose Hill towards the close of the evening: the head of this bat very much resembles that of the fox; the wings of many of them extend four feet from tip to tip. I have one of them that will eat out of the hand, and is as domestic in the house as a cat. Their smell is rank and offensive; and numbers having perished from the extreme heat of the weather, and fallen into the water about Rose Hill, rendered it undrinkable for some days.

There

There are as many different species of insects as of birds; the centipedes, spider, ant, and scorpion; the generality of these vary but little from those described as inhabitants of most parts between the tropicks: the ant possesses not only the greatest portion of industry, but also of courage; an insult is never offered them with impunity: they are of various sizes, from the common European ant to near three quarters of an inch in length; they are also of different colours, as black, white, yellow, and red; the most formidable of which are the red-coated gentry: whenever it happens that they are disturbed by any person, or beasts treading on their nests, which are constructed just beneath the surface, with numberless small passages, or outlets, they rally forth in myriads and attack the ill-fated and unconscious offender with astonishing intrepidity, and even continue the pursuit to a considerable distance; their bite, if not venomous, is attended with the most acute pain for some time: one species of them build their nests against a tree, of the size of a bee-hive; another kind raises mounts of earth with prodigious industry to the height of four feet.

The spider of this country nearly approaches the ant in point of industry; the smallest of these are larger than any I ever saw in England; they spread their web in the woods between the trees, generally to the distance of ten or a dozen yards, and weave them so strong that small birds are frequently entangled therein. The silk of which the web is composed, when wound off in a ball, I think is equal to any I ever saw in the same state from the silk-worm; it is of the same colour, a pale yellow, or straw colour; of reptiles, there are snakes from the smallest I have
ever

ever seen in England to the length of eleven feet, and as thick as a man's leg; also lizards of various kinds and sizes.

A great variety of beautiful plants and flowers abound in this country; but being unacquainted with the science of botany I am consequently unqualified to descant on their different properties; we find wild spinage, parsley, and sorrel, but not in sufficient quantities to flatter ourselves with the hope of deriving any considerable advantage therefrom.

Exclusive of the plantain, banana, and other tropical fruits, here are some peculiar, I believe, to this country; that which they call the mizzabore greatly resembles our cherry, its taste is very insipid, and it varies but little from another fruit, similar in its appearance, but something smaller, and which is also found in abundance; there is also a third sort, which also resembles the former two; though there is so great a similarity between these fruits, it is remarkable that the trees that bear them are of very different kinds and appearance. These berries have all the same insipidity and are held in no estimation by our people; but there is another berry, of about the size of a currant and grows on a tree, the leaves of which are much like the broom: the juice of this fruit when ripe, is, perhaps, the purest acid in the world; it is extremely pleasant to the taste, and by the faculty held in great estimation as a most powerful antiscorbutic. It is an excellent acquisition in making tarts, jellies and other delicacies in the confectionary and pastry department. There is another species of berries, which when ripe, is a clear red, of the size of a currant, and shaped like a heart; it has a most pleasant flavour, is a strong astringent, and if not taken
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in too great quantities is not unwholesome, many of the people having eaten of them very freely without any pernicious consequence.

Here is also a nut which acts as a violent purgative, and emetic, if eaten unprepared : it must be soaked seven or eight days in water, taking care that the water be changed every day. When it has been thoroughly soaked, it is then roasted in the embers ; and when done it is not unlike a chesnut, and very palatable.

CHAPTER X.

ABOUT a twelvemonth before my arrival, the small-pox made its appearance and occasioned a terrible havock among the poor natives. It was truly shocking to find the coves of the harbour, which were formerly thronged with numerous families in tempestuous weather, now strewed with the dead bodies of men, women and children. No vestige of this cruel disorder being visible in the countenances of any of the natives, it was reasonable to suppose they were never before infected with it, and of course ignorant of the method of treating this cruel ravager of the human species. The various attitudes in which the dead bodies were found, afforded reason to believe that when any of them were indisposed, and the disorder assumed the appearance of the small-pox, they were immediately deserted by their friends and left to perish in their helpless situation for want of assistance. Some have been found sitting with their heads reclined between their

their knees ; others were leaning against a rock, with their head resting upon it. Two children, a boy and a girl, the boy about nine, the girl about two years older, were picked up during the prevalence of this disorder, labouring under its dreadful effects. Two old men, who were supposed the fathers of the children, were picked up about the same time, and carried to the hospital, where they were taken all possible care of ; the men survived but a short time, but the children both recovered, and appeared perfectly satisfied with their change of living.

About this time a native, who I saw frequently at the governor's and who was now as perfectly at his ease in company as if he had been bred in England, being decently cloathed, and managing his knife, fork, cup and saucer with great dexterity, was entrapped from his friends. Some officers were sent down the harbour, with two boats for the purpose of seizing any of the natives they could lay their hands on ; the governor having found that no encouragement would induce them to pay a visit to the colony of their own accord ; he therefore determined to get some of them into his possession, and by kind treatment prevail on them to bring their countrymen to repose more confidence in us—Arabadoo, the name of the native above alluded to, was taken in the following manner :—

Being enticed near to the beach, by the display of various articles calculated to excite his curiosity and desire, and busily employed in admiring the presents that were given him, one of the seamen, stationed for the purpose, threw a rope round his neck, and in a moment dragged him to the boat ; his cries brought a number of his friends to the skirts of the wood, from whence they

they threw several spears but without effect. To pourtray the terror and dismay depicted in the countenance of this poor creature, would require the hand of an able artist: he believed he was to be put to instant death; but when he was assured by the officers that his life was safe, and they at the same time casting off the rope they had bound round his neck and fixing it to his leg, treated him with so much kindness that he gradually became cheerful. On his arrival at the governor's house he had an iron shackle put round his leg to prevent the possibility of an escape; this he was taught to consider as a *bang ally*, a term in their language, used for a decoration of any kind; and it was no very difficult matter to bring him into the belief of this, as it was not uncommon to see some of the convicts ironed in the same manner, as a punishment for the crimes they had committed in the colony.

Arabadoo, from the kind treatment he experienced, was soon reconciled to his situation, and the iron becoming troublesome, galling his leg, it was taken off, and he was permitted to go where he pleased. The names of the different gentlemen who took notice of him were soon familiar to him, and he would call them with great facility—He was a very good tempered fellow, of about thirty years of age, well made, and on the whole not an unhandsome figure.

The intentions of the governor were however frustrated for a time; poor Arabadoo, ere he could bring about a good understanding with his countryman, was attacked with the small-pox, which, notwithstanding every possible means was used by the faculty, for his recovery, he only lived till the crisis of his distemper.

Frequent

Frequent indications of hostilities, as well as the missing of several of the convicts, who were supposed to have been murdered by the natives, made the governor exceedingly regret the fate of poor Arabanoo, who, had he lived, might have prevented much of this hostile disposition towards us, as he would soon have understood enough of our language to have communicated whatever we desired; he could have made them understand that we wished to live with them on the most friendly footing, and to promote, as much as in our power, their comfort and happiness.

The children had recovered from the small-pox, and were perfectly happy in their situation, but were then too young to be of service in reconciling their countrymen to us; they very soon understood almost every thing that was said, and could also make themselves tolerably well understood; but the governor was still determined, if possible, to get a man or two into his possession, who might be taught enough of the language to render them useful negociators.

Accordingly some officers and a party of men were sent on this expedition, in an armed boat; they proceeded to the north side of the harbour, where they saw two of the natives walking on the beach: a plan was soon formed to entice them to conversation; a few large fish were held up, and an officer who spoke some words of their tongue, hailed them, which had the desired effect. The men advanced unarmed, with much confidence, and readily took the fish that was presented them. The boat was lying afloat, and five or six seamen on the beach, nearly surrounding them; when the officer in the boat, observing the opportunity favourable, made the

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signal

Signal to secure them; in an instant they were tripped up, and tumbled into the boat, ere they had time to look around. They called out to their friends the moment they recovered their recollection, and a considerable number appeared from the woods, and many spears were thrown, one of which pierced through the gunwale of the boat: the party pulled off instantly, and the people presenting their fire arms, they halted, not daring to venture any farther attack. The two prisoners were made fast to the thwarts of the boat on being put on board; but having got a good distance from the shore, their hands were loosed, and they were only secured by one leg. When they were landed at Sydney Cove, the residence of the governor, many people prompted by curiosity, went to see them; among whom were Abaroo, and Nanbarre, the two children before mentioned: the moment they saw them their eyes sparkled with joy; they called them by their names: the children were also known to them; and by their easy and apparently satisfied behaviour tended greatly to calm their apprehensions.

They discovered that one of the men they had taken was a chief of the tribe of Cadigal, named Coalby; he was about thirty-five years of age: the other, about twenty-five was called Banalong: he was a smart, active, good-looking young man, of a lively, pleasant disposition. His fellow prisoner appeared a check upon the volatile temper of Banalong, who, in his presence was always sedate and grave, and paid great deference to him; but no sooner was Coalby out of sight, than all his gravity forsook him, and he was as merry and good-humoured as though he had been all his life in the colony. They were treated
with

with the utmost kindness; but least they should attempt an escape, they wore each of them an iron on one leg, with a piece of rope spliced to it, and a man was ordered for each, who was to be responsible for their security. Wherever they went they were accompanied by their leaders, holding one end of the rope.

They had been taken near three weeks, when they appeared so well satisfied with their treatment, that their keepers began to be under very little apprehensions of their attempting to get from them; this security they did not fail to avail themselves of: accordingly one evening about dusk, their guards sitting within the door of their hut, eating their supper, Banalong being also in the hut in like manner employed. Coalby seated without the door, pretending to be also eating his supper, unspliced the rope from the shackle, leaving the other end fast in the keeper's hand, who had not the least suspicion of what was going forward: he was over the paling of the yard in an instant. The noise he made in leaping the paling roused those within, but too late; the fugitive gained the wood in spite of an immediate pursuit, and joined his friends. Banalong was much more cheerful after Coalby's departure, which confirmed the conjecture, and the childrens' report, that he was a chief, and consequently Banalong stood in great awe of him.

This man had several names; but the one he usually went by was Banalong: he is a stout well made man about five feet six inches high; he is dark black, large featured, and has a flat nose; his hair is the same as the Africans, but very coarse and strong; he is very good-humoured, of a lively and a pleasant disposition, and seldom
angry

angry at any jokes that are passed on him; he readily imitates the actions and gestures of every person in the governor's family, and generally sits at table with the governor, whom he calls *teanga*, or father, and he in return, calls him *deorow*, or son: he is under no restraint, nor does he appear awkward in eating; and considering the savage state from which he has so recently emerged, he may be deemed a polite man, as he performs the ceremonies of bowing, drinking healths, returning thanks, &c. with the most scrupulous exactness. He is very fond of wine, but cannot bear the smell of spirits, although they have often tried to deceive him, by mixing very weak rum or brandy and water, and giving it him for wine and water, but he instantly discovers the deception, and is very angry on these occasions: he generally accompanies the governor in his walks, who to inspire him with confidence, always taken off his small sword, and puts it on him, and he is much pleased at this mark of distinction. His dress is a jacket, made of coarse red kersey, and a pair of trowsers; but on Sundays he is dressed in nankeen. The governor's reason for making him wear the thick kersey is that he may be so sensible of cold as not to be able to go without clothes. He sings when asked, but in general his songs are of the mournful strain; he keeps time by throwing his arms backward and forward. Whenever desired to dance, he does it with the utmost readiness; his gestures at first are very slow, and regulated by a low dismal tune, which quickens as the dance advances, 'till at length he throws himself into the most violent attitudes, shaking his arms, and striking the ground with great force, which gives him the appearance of a madman.

a madman. It is very probable that this part of the dance is used as a kind of defiance, as all the natives, which were seen when the governor first landed at Port Jackson, always accompanied this sort of dance to their vociferations of "*woroo, woroo!*" Go away, go away!

The kind treatment, and air of satisfaction which Banalong manifested for the space of a year after Coalby's flight, determined the governor to trust him with his liberty. Accordingly the shackle was taken from his leg, nor did he in the least seem disposed to leave the governor's house, or desert his new friends: he continued this behaviour with great success for several days, so that no person had the least suspicion of his leaving the colony; he, however, one evening, just as it was dark, stripped himself and leaving the clothes that had been given him behind, beat his march into the woods.

Both he and Coalby were frequently seen by the boats employed in fishing, and would even converse with the people, who earnestly invited them to return to Sydney; but no entreaties could prevail on them to accept the invitation.

The governor having received information that they were seen in a cove at the entrance of the harbour, he went thither, attended by several of the officers, but they were all unarmed, which ill-judged piece of confidence had like to have proved fatal to the governor. The particulars of this expedition were related to me nearly as follows:

The governor with some of the gentlemen of the colony, went down to the mouth of the harbour, in order to pitch on a spot proper to erect a landmark, to enable strangers the more readily to ascertain the harbour's mouth when at sea; on

their return they were met by a boat, which had just landed a party of officers, who intended to take a survey of the shore as far as Broken Bay; the coxswain of the boat informed the governor, that one of the party (Mr. White, the surgeon,) had seen Coalby and Banalong, and had had some conversation with them; and that they enquired after every person they had any knowledge of in the colony, and particularly the governor, and that they said they would go up to Sydney if he would come for them.

In consequence of this information, his excellency returned to the Cove, got some few presents for them, which he supposed would be acceptable; he also ordered four musquets into the boat, and immediately repaired to the spot where these men had been seen. When they arrived at the place, they found a number of the natives sitting round a fire, and near them lay the remains of a dead whale, which had been thrown ashore in a hard gale, and on which they had been heartily feasting. As soon as they were within hail, the governor stood up in the boat, and called for Banalong, and in their language asked where he was. Banalong instantly answered, "Here I am." His excellency then said, "I am the governor, your father;" which title he always gave the governor when he was at Sydney. After desiring two gentlemen to remain in the boat, and to have the musquets ready, upon examining which, two were found unprovided with flints, his excellency landed, and walked towards them with his arms extended, to shew them he was unarmed, and that they might be under no apprehensions for their safety: they appeared very backward in coming to a nearer conference; however, he continued approaching them

them till he entered the wood ; one of them possessed of more assurance than his comrades, after frequently repeating the words " Governor, father," ventured to shake hands in a friendly manner.—His excellency then returned to the boat, and ordered one of the people to bring some wine, beef, bread, and a jacket or two which had been brought on purpose, and returned to them with these presents. On his shewing a bottle, one of them called out, " Wine, wine !" two of them immediately advanced, took the things, and drank a little of the wine : the governor also gave them two or three knives ; he then returned to the boat, and told the gentlemen that remained in her that he had not seen either Coalby or Banalong, and that his mind was not altogether satisfied with regard to their pacific intentions ; at the same time desiring them to stay by the boat, and give a good look-out, and be ready in case of alarm. He then went towards them, accompanied by Captain Collins. The officer in the boat frequently heard one of the natives call to Banalong, and acquaint him with the observations he made upon those who were in the boat, which was kept afloat upon her oars ; presently after one of the people came down from the governor, and acquainted Mr. Waterhouse, the officer left in the boat, that both Coalby and Banalong were among them, had asked for him, and that governor Philip desired he would join them. He immediately accompanied the messenger to the governor, whom he found, with Captain Collins, in close conversation with two of the natives, who were unarmed : Mr. Waterhouse went up, but did not recognize Banalong till he was pointed out to him, so much was he altered ; nor could he then persuade

suade himself that he was the same. On the question being repeatedly asked, where was Banalong, he grew farther impatient, and was going off; however, a bottle being shewn him, and being asked the name of it, he readily answered, "The king;" having observed when at the governor's house, his majesty's health drank in the first glass after dinner, and had been taught to repeat the word before he drank his own glass, he imagined the liquor was called the king; and when he afterwards came to know it was wine, yet he would frequently call it king. This convinced the gentlemen that he was no other than their old acquaintance Banalong; and every method was tried to induce him to go down to the boat; but he always retired when any one approached nearer than he wished, so that they gradually got out of sight of the boat, when about a dozen of the natives placing themselves in a situation to prevent any surprize. Banalong and Coalby came among the gentlemen, and asked various questions relative to different transactions which had occurred at the settlement during their residence there. Banalong took Mr. Waterhouse round the neck, Coalby shook them all by the hand; a jacket being presented to him he was puzzled how to put it on, and begged one of the gentlemen to do it for him: Banalong had a very fine spear in his hand, which the governor asked him for, but he would not part with it. During all this time the most perfect harmony and friendship seemed to subsist among the whole party; but the governor, perceiving upwards of twenty of them closing round his party, proposed returning to the boat, telling Banalong that he would shortly return, and bring him and Coalby a couple of hatchets, which pleased them extremely. The

governor

governor then went down to the beach, and the officers left in the boat came on shore; the boat's crew with the arms remained in the boat: as the natives, by continuing their position, indicated some remaining symptoms of distrust, his excellency was afraid of alarming them. Banalong was very cheerful, and appeared transported at the sight of so many of his dear friends, as he termed them, incessantly shaking hands all round. He pointed out a small fire near them, and said he would sleep there till their return. They were very merry on their escape, and told them how Coalby got rid of the shackle by which he had been secured when at the settlement, and that if they had meant to keep them, they should never, "*Nangora*."—Fall asleep.

The governor and his party now began to move towards the boat, when a stout native, who had been seen standing at a distance, approached; at first he shewed strong indications of fear, which soon subsided on his being treated in the same familiar friendly manner as Coalby and Banalong, and he became tolerably conversable. He showed a wound which he had received in the back with a spear; this also put Banalong upon shewing that he had also been wounded in different parts of the body since he quitted the settlement; one was through the left arm, made with a spear; another dangerous one over the left eye, not healed: these wounds he said, were received in a rencounter with a neighbouring tribe near Botany Bay.

The party still proceeded towards the beach, were detained by Banalong, who continued teasing them about the hatchets that were to be sent him; and he pointed out the stout native, who had had retired about thirty yards distance, whom he

he appeared anxious should be noticed: the governor advanced towards him, and upon the savage indicating that he would not be approached, he laid down his sword, still going forward with extended arms, to assure him he was unarmed.

As the governor drew near, the native seized a spear that lay concealed in the grass, fixed it in his throwing stick, and for some moments appeared to stand on his defence. There being not the least reason to suppose he would throw it without provocation, his excellency continued to advance, calling out "*Weree, weree,*" a term used by them when they wish a thing to be done which displeases them: notwithstanding which the native discharged the spear with surprising velocity and immediately ran off. In their retreat to the woods many spears were thrown, but the only one which took effect was unfortunately the first, which struck our much loved governor; it entered his right shoulder just above the collar bone and came out behind, about three inches lower under the blade-bone.

The gentlemen near the governor concluded he was mortally wounded, and feared, from the number of armed men that began to shew themselves from the woods, that it would be impracticable for them to reach the boat.—The governor, holding up the spear, which trailed on the ground endeavoured to make his way to the beach, but its great length frequently stopped him; in this situation he desired some one to endeavour if possible to draw the spear out of his body, but it being barbed, it was found impracticable; they then with great difficulty broke it, and disembarassed him from the greater part; he then drew a pistol from his pocket, and discharged it at them, who from the apprehension of there being more
fire-arms

fire-arms among the party, kept a respectful distance ; and the governor, carried between two of the people, reached the boat without any farther molestation.

Immediately after their arrival at Sydney, the surgeon was sent for. Mr. Balmain, the first who arrived at the governor's house, after examining the wound, relieved every body from the most painful suspense, by assuring them that alarming as the situation of the governor might appear, he did not apprehend any fatal consequences from it ; he extracted the point of the spear, dressed the wound, and to the admiration of every body, in six weeks he was enabled to go about.

CHAPTER XI.

GOVERNOR Philip still desirous of being reconciled with the natives, did not harbour any resentment towards them on account of the late transaction, which he construed to have proceeded from a sudden impulse of fear rather than treachery, and had given the necessary directions that none of them should be fired at, or any ways molested, unless they provoked it by the throwing of spears, or other hostilities.

Nanbarre, the boy, who had now become a tolerable interpreter, attending some of the officers who were on a shooting excursion, near the spot where the accident to the governor had happened, a number of natives appeared on an eminence at a short distance ; being asked who it was that threw the spear at the governor, they
named

named a man of the tribe who dwelt to the northward; that his name was Carrigal. Nanbarre was also desired to enquire after Banalong and Coalby, when they pointed to some people at a distance—One of them threw a spear at an officer who asked for it: but evidently with no mischievous design, as he took care it fell where nobody was standing.

The girl Abaroo was in the boat, and pointing to one of the natives said it was her father, and was very desirous of going with them; she had arrived at an age when her inclination began to tender towards the other sex, and with great naivete and innocence told the officers that she wanted to be married.—As she had no opportunity of a connexion of that kind in the clergyman's house where she dwelt, and it would be a difficult matter to keep her against her will, it was judged most prudent to permit her to go where she pleased, and she was told that as soon as some new cloaths could be made for her, she should take them with her, with which assurances she was perfectly satisfied to stay some time longer; during which great pains were taken to instruct her in English, that she might be enabled to explain our intentions towards her countrymen.

The governor being sufficiently recovered to venture in a boat, went to the place where Banalong and his wife lived—he found several natives on the spot, who told him that they were out a fishing. Abaroo was in the boat, and her father being among them, a hatchet and some fish were given him, and he gave the governor a short spear in return; as the boat was pushing from the shore they perceived four canoes paddling toward them, in the foremost they perceived
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ed Banalong : the boat then lay to on her oars, and they landed from the canoes : as soon as Banalong had secured his, he approached the boat, holding up his hands to shew he was unarmed.

Upon which the party landed from the boat, and he very readily joined them ; he asked the governor where he was wounded, and said he had quarrelled with and beat the man who had wounded him—being told that he would be killed if he was caught, he seemed no ways concerned, but desired it might be done—several presents were made him, and he wanted some also for his wife ; but being told that if she wanted them she must come and fetch them herself, in about half an hour she made her appearance ; she was called Barangaroo, and appeared older than him : a petticoat and several little presents were given to the lady, and a red jacket with a silver epaulette, which Banalong used to wear when at the settlement, were given him, which delighted him exceedingly ; he was asked if he would come and dine with the governor the next day, to which he readily assented, and said he would bring his wife and some friends with him.

Notwithstanding Banalong did not visit the governor according to his promise, he frequently joined the different parties he fell in with, altho' they were well armed, and would without the least fear go to the long-boat, though he always saw musquets in her ; his wife was generally with him in the canoe, and he intimated that he still intended paying the governor a visit, but his suspicion of being detained apparently had not been entirely done away ; however, the governor did not chuse to take him a second time by force, as he still entertained hopes that he would be soon reconciled to pass some of his

time at Sidney, when he could be assured of being his own master, to go and come when he pleased.

At length his excellency's wishes were accomplished ; as he was going to Paramatta, a native was seen standing on one of the points of land, and as they rowed past him he was asked where Banalong was, when he pointed to an island called Memill, to which they rowed ; as they drew near the rocks he came down to the boat, accompanied by his wife, without the least signs of fear or distrust. They greedily took some bread that was given them, and the boat soon after pushed off and left them : from the confidence now evinced by this man, there was little doubt but he would shortly trust himself at Sydney. Accordingly a few days after, as the governor was passing in his boat, Banalong called to him repeatedly from the opposite shore where he was with some of the officers ; and the surgeon, in whom he placed great confidence, persuaded him to go over to the governor, he took three natives with him, who were exceedingly pleased with the presents made them. It seems that Banalong's wife opposed his coming, and finding her tears and entreaties of no avail, flew into a violent passion, and broke a very fine fish gig of her husband's, for which she would have received a hearty drubbing, had it not been for the interference of the surgeon, who took them back to their residence on the north shore.

Banalong appeared quite at his ease and not under the least apprehension of being detained ; he promised when he went away to bring his wife over, which he did two days afterwards, accompanied by her sister and two other natives ; they were followed by a third—Blankets
and

and clothing were given them, and each as much fish as they could eat. Banalong dined with the governor, and drank his wine and coffee as formerly—his excellency bought a spear from one of them, and gave them to understand, that spears, lines, birds, or any thing they brought should always be purchased; and at the same time promising him a shield, for which he was to bring a spear in return.—The next day a large party came over for the shield, but it was not finished; two of these men were owned by Araboo, as her brothers, and for whom she procured two hatchets, the most desirable present that can be given them—Banalong came the next day for his present; several of his comrades who accompanied him went away in a short time, but he staid to dinner, and left Sidney Cove, highly delighted with his shield, which being made of a good substantial hide, and covered with tin, was likely to resist the stroke of a spear. It being late in the afternoon before he thought of returning, his wife and sister with two men, came over in their canoes to fetch him.

The girl who had been near eighteen months in the colony, with the clergyman's wife, was so impatient to get away that at last it was consented to; and the very next day after she had left the settlement she was seen in the canoe naked; however she put on her petticoat before she joined the clergyman and some others who went to visit her: she appeared much pleased with her liberty, and the boy Nanbarre, who was of the party, wished to stay with the natives all night; he was accordingly left behind, but the next morning returned to the settlement, and having fared but indifferently did not seem inclined to renew his visit.

The natives now visited the colony daily ; one morning Banalong came very early and breakfasted with the governor, and on taking his leave told him he was going a great way off, but should return in three days with two young men who were with him ; and it was conjectured that they were going to fight with some other tribe.

When Banalong returned from his expedition, he immediately waited on the governor, with whom he dined according to custom : after dinner he related the cause of his absence ; that he had been to fight a man who had formerly wounded him ; he said his shield was a good one, and that his spear had pierced the shield and arm of his antagonist : he also said that the people he had been to fight with had killed one of the convicts, who had been some time missing.

Governor Phillip conjectured that the women were not treated with the greatest deference, in which conjecture he was certainly not much mistaken ; for Banalong frequently beat his wife with great severity, although he professed great affection for her. He was often told that it was wrong and unmanly to beat a woman ; but he only laughed at these remonstrances, and continued daily to visit the settlement, with his wife, children, and half a dozen of his friends : Coalby was generally one of the party.

Banalong, wit his wife and children, now lived in a hut, which the governor had built for them on the eastern point of the cove ; they constantly had a number of visitors many of whom came daily to the settlement ; and all of them becoming very fond of bread, which they get in exchange for any trifling articles they brought, they

they soon found the advantage of coming amongst the settlers.

It had hitherto been the opinion that the custom of losing the front teeth was confined to the men, but a woman was also seen with the same mark, and two of them had the bottom of the gristle which parts the nostrils perforated; one of them was Barangaroo, the wife of Banalong, who never considered herself dressed but when her nose was dilated by a small stick, thrust thro' the septum or gristle of the nostrils. She is very strait and well formed, her features well proportioned and pleasing, and though she goes entirely naked, there is such an air of innocence about her, that clothing scarce seems necessary.

Araboo, the native girl, returned to the colony, after a few weeks absence, with some officers who had been down the harbour, and seemed perfectly happy in the opportunity of getting from the party she had been with. She said she had lived three days with the young man she wished to marry, but that he had another wife, who was jealous of her, and had beat her; indeed evident marks of ill usage appeared about her head, which was so much hurt that she was put under the surgeon's hands. Her favourite, it seems, had taken her part, and beat his wife in return; but matrimonial squabbles, which are always settled by the exercise of the cudgel, are very frequent, and the women in general treated very roughly.

Sixteen of the natives paid a visit to the governor one morning, and were regaled with fish for breakfast, to which they sat down in the yard in the utmost good humour: those who had not been there before were highly delighted with the novelties that surrounded them. Banalong, who

had been absent for some days, was of this party, and brought his wife with him ; she appeared very ill, and had a fresh wound on her head, which he gave the governor to understand was because she had behaved ill, and in her ill-humour had broken a fish-gig and a throwing stick. The governor again reasoned with him on the subject of beating his wife, but to no effect ; he said she was wicked, and therefore he had beaten her. When they had finished their breakfasts, his wife and another woman, a stranger, who had also been wounded by some of the men, went to the surgeon to have their heads dressed ; when they returned, Banalong missing the governor, enquired for him, and said that he wanted to see him ; upon which he was taken to his excellency, who was writing. Banalong seated himself, and appeared very much out of humour, frequently saying that he was going to beat a woman with a hatchet, which he held in his hand ; it was impossible to divert him from his purpose, and after some conversation, he was going to take his leave, excusing himself from dining with his excellency, as he was going to beat the woman ; upon which the governor insisted on accompanying him ; he made no objection to the proposal, though he was told that he would not be permitted to beat the woman. They set off for the hut, the governor ordering a serjeant and a couple of marines to attend him, and the judge-advocate coming in at the time, went with them.

Though Banalong had said he would kill the woman, when they were endeavouring to persuade him not to beat her, it was not supposed that he harboured any such intention, nor was it thought there would be much trouble to prevent his beating her ; but lest he should in his passion
strike

strike her with the hatchet, which might be fatal to her, it was taken from him before they got to the hut, and as he appeared reluctantly to part with it, the governor gave him his cane; but his menaces and countenance made them believe even that too dangerous a weapon to trust him with, and it was accordingly taken from him.

When they came to the hut, they found several men, women, and children assembled; and notwithstanding Governor Philip endeavoured to single out the object of Banalong's displeasure, whom he was determined on protecting, the furious savage seized a wooden sword, and darted on his victim, a fine girl of about fifteen, who, on seeing him coming had hid her face in the grass; he struck her several blows on the head before the weapon could be wrested from him; he then seized a hatchet, but was prevented doing any farther mischief.

The fury which took possession of him when he found himself prevented from beating the girl is indescribable: the poor creature lay trembling in the grass, not daring to stir, and in momentary expectation of being put to death: he had got another sword, and was preparing to repeat his violence, but was laid hold of by the judge-advocate and the serjeant. The fracas being observed by the officers on board the Supply, they instantly went on shore armed, and took the poor girl without any opposition from the natives, who had all armed themselves the moment they saw the governor and his party interfere.

When the boat had taken the girl on board the Supply, the party returned to the governor's house, where they were joined by several of the natives; Banalong was of the number: after
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some time his passion subsided, and he grew calm. He was then given to understand that the governor was very angry with him for endeavouring to kill a woman: that it was a cowardly and unmanly action, and should it be known that he did kill her, or even beat her any more, he should be put to death himself; but threats had no greater effect on him than entreaties, and he complained bitterly of the injury done him by depriving him of his victim; saying, that she was his, that her father had wounded him over the eye, that she was of a wicked tribe, and that they should see he would kill her. When he was talked to by the judge-advocate, and told that if he killed the girl the governor would kill him, he pointed with his fore-finger to the parts of the head, breast, and arms, where he said he would wound her before he cut her head off; in this resolution he returned home, and the girl was brought from the Supply to the governor's, accompanied by a young man whom Banalong had desired to remain with her. The attention paid her by this young native made every body conclude he was her husband, tho' he had not been seen to murmur or express any signs of dissatisfaction when her life was in danger.

Two days after Banalong returned to Sydney, apparently in great good humour; he said he would not beat the girl any more, but that he had been obliged again to chastise his wife, and had wounded her on the head, and that he had received a wound on the shoulder from a club in return. On being told to go to the hospital to have it dressed, as well as his wife's head, he refused, saying, that the surgeon would kill him, and that he was afraid of sleeping in his hut, lest he should shoot him in the night; tho',

to shew he was not afraid of meeting him openly, he went once or twice into the room where he had left his spear, brought it, and shook it by way of defiance. Governor Philip assured him that no harm was intended him, unless he killed the girl, or threw spears at the English. As soon as he was satisfied that the surgeon was still his friend, he agreed to go to him for a plaister for his shoulder; but his excellency desirous of being present at their meeting, sent for Mr. White; Banalong received him as usual, giving him part of what he was eating, and went with him to the hospital; after which he went to his house, and the girl being there against whom he had lately been so incensed, he took her by the hand, and spoke to her in a friendly manner. Baran-garoo, who was present, was so exasperated at her husband's attention to the girl, that it was with great difficulty she could be prevented from doing her a mischief with a club she had snatched from one of the by-standers: nor did Banalong seemed disposed to prevent her, till desired by Mr. White, when he gave her a sound slap on the face: she not being able to vent her passion on the girl, burst into tears, and went to the governor's; the girl was taken there for greater security, and was followed by several men.

Governor Philip ordered her to be put into a room occupied by one of his maid servants, at which Banalong seemed greatly pleased, and begged him to let the same young man stay with her; in the mean time his wife grew quite outrageous, and used many threats; she had got her husband's spears, which she would not part with, till forced from her by one of the soldiers, from whom Banalong wanted to take them, saying he would give them to the governor himself; up-
on

on which they were delivered to him, and he immediately gave them as he promised, begging that they might be lodged in the house: this shewed he placed some confidence in Governor Philip, notwithstanding, he was very violent against those who prevented him entering the house, and threatened to knock them down with his club, tho' a file of soldiers was drawn up in the yard, and he knew that they had orders to fire on the least violence being offered. One of the natives, who was generally his companion, seemed ready to support him in any attempt he might be disposed to make. They were all turned out of the yard except Banalong — Barangaroo was also turned out with the rest, but he staid dinner, and behaved with as much indifference as if nothing had happened. In the evening, when they were going, an unexpected scene took place; the native who had remained with the girl would stay no longer, and the girl forced her way out of the room to go with Banalong; she was brought back, and told she would be beat if she went with him, but he said he would beat her no more, and begged that she might be permitted to accompany him; that Barangaroo would be reconciled to her, as her passion was over, and she was now very good.

The governor was fully persuaded that Banalong would keep his word, but the general opinion was against him, and that the girl would be sacrificed; but the next morning he returned to dinner, and said he had sent her to her friends, which was afterwards confirmed. How he got this girl into his possession could never be learnt; she appeared about fifteen, and when she went away her wounds were in a fair way of doing well; fortunately for her the weapon Banalong first

first caught hold of was a boy's wooden sword, and made of very light wood ; but they pay little attention to wounds, and even those which have been deemed dangerous by the surgeons, do not seem to require the common attention of closing and keeping them clean ; which shews that they must be of an excellent habit of body.

CHAPTER XII.

SHORTLY after, the governor having occasion to visit Paramatta, Banalong said he would accompany him ; accordingly they set out, and stopped at the point, in order to take his wife into the boat, but she refused, and also persuaded him to change his mind. On his excellency's return to Sydney, he was told that this party had been lamenting the loss of a brother, who had been killed by one of the Camaragals ; the women cried violently, but their grief was of no long duration ; and Banalong went away with the officers, who, hearing the cries of women, had gone to the hut to learn the cause. As they proceeded down the harbour, looking after a small boat that had been lost with five convicts, he begged them to land him on the north shore, in order, it was supposed, to collect his friends, to go and revenge his brother's death. They found the wreck of the boat, and one of the bodies : and being seen under sail when it blew a gale of wind, it was supposed that the people were ignorant of the management of her, and she had been driven ashore among the rocks. The natives were very alert in
saving

saving the oars and other articles that were driven ashore, and Coalby exerted himself greatly on the occasion, and saved the seine which was entangled among the rocks, for which he was rewarded with some clothes, and a couple of blankets; the rest of them had also some small present; but let you clothe these people ever so well, they generally return naked the next day; for of all the things that had been given to Banalong, very little remained in his possession; he had, he said, sent his shield, and most of his clothes, a long way off; but whether he had given them away, sold, or lost them, was equally uncertain.

The governor had built a small house at Paramatta, (the one I now occupy) and was going to remain there some time, when several of the natives were desirous of accompanying him, among whom were Banalong and Coalby. His excellency took three of them in his boat; but Banalong going to fetch his cloak, was detained by his wife; but as they were going out of the cove he appeared on the rocks, and got into the boat, in spite of her threats and entreaties. No sooner was the boat put off, than she went to her canoe, which was a new one, and stove it, and breaking the paddles, threw them into the water; she then went to the hut, probably with the intent of committing more mischief. Banalong endeavoured to pacify her, telling her he would not be more than one day absent; but all would not do, and he was put on shore. The party then proceeded to Rose-Hill, with Coalby and two other natives, none of whom ever opened their lips during the altercation; indeed they are never known to interfere in any dispute which does not immediately concern themselves.

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The natives slept that night at Paramatta, and though they wanted for nothing, yet the next morning were very anxious of returning; a boat was accordingly sent down with them, by the return of which it was generally expected that news would be received of Mrs. Barangaroo's being again under the hands of the surgeon for her freaks; but to the surprize of every body, the next day they both made their appearance, and it seemed that he had not beaten her: whether he had withheld the usual correction from what had been formerly said to him by the governor, or from some other cause, could not be discovered; however, a reconciliation had taken place, and they both dined with his excellency, in great good humour. Every thing they desired was given them; but no sooner was the dinner ended than the lady wished to return, and Banalongo said she would cry if they detained her, so that they were obliged to send a boat down in the evening with them.

On the return of the governor to Sydney, he learnt that his gamekeeper had been dangerously wounded by the natives with a spear. It appeared that he went out with three others, one of whom was a serjeant, and in the heat of the day they retired to a hut they had made with boughs, and laid down to sleep. One of them waking, heard a noise in the bushes, which he supposed to be some animal; but on waking his comrades, and coming out of the hut, four natives started up from among the bushes, and ran away with all their speed; the gamekeeper, thinking he knew one of them, who had been at Sydney, followed them without his gun, notwithstanding positive orders had been given for no one to thrust himself with the natives unarmed, calling on them

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to stop, and he would give them some bread, and observing one who followed him to have a gun in his hand, desired him to lay it down, as it only frightened the natives, and they would do them no harm: he had now advanced about fifty yards before his companions, and was not ten paces from one of the natives, who stopped short, and finding they were unarmed, fixed his spear on the throwing stick in a moment, and threw it at the man nearest him; it entered his left side and penetrated the lower lobe of the lungs: it was barbed, and consequently could not be extracted till a separation took place. Immediately after throwing the spear, the native fled into the woods, and was seen no more.

They were eleven miles from Sydney when this accident happened, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the wounded man could be brought to the settlement. Being questioned whether he had provoked the natives to this violence, he desired to have the clergyman sent for, to whom he confessed he had been a very bad man; but at the same time declared that he had never killed or wounded any native, except once, when having had a spear thrown at him, he discharged his piece, loaded with small shot, and wounded the man that threw the spear; this declaration added to the testimony of those who were with him, left no room to doubt but that the native had taken the advantage of his being unarmed.

Banalong and Araboo repeatedly said that it was the tribes which lived about Botany Bay who threw the spears, and killed the white men, yet as it was evident that they generally received some provocation from our people, the governor was loth to proceed to extremities, while there
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was any possibility of avoiding it; especially as he had been at so much trouble in bringing them to repose some confidence in him; and a good understanding with them was essentially necessary to the happiness and prosperity of the colony.

Many of the natives now daily visited the settlement, and were all well received; it was no unusual thing for the mothers to leave their children behind them for several days, without ever enquiring after them; and if any of them were going where the children would be an incumbrance, they made no scruple of leaving them at Sydney; Banalong, Coalby, and two or three others took up their quarters there four days in a week, and all joined in the same story, and desired those natives might be killed who threw the spears; but governor Philip had his suspicions that there was a great deal of art and cunning in Banalong; he had lately been seen among those people he now wished to be killed, where he said they danced, and that one of them had sung a song in praise of his house, the governor, and the white men at Sydney; and he said those people would throw no more spears, as they were now all friends; this was but a few days after he was so solicitous with the governor to kill them all.

What was rather extraordinary, they all knew the man that threw the spear; they said his name was Pemulaway, of the Bejigal tribe: Banalong and Coalby said they would bring him to the governor; and went off the next day, as it was supposed to Botany Bay; and his excellency, upon a report that a number of natives had been seen armed about the mouth of the harbour, went down to the Lookout; he met Coalby there,

there, who returned to Sydney with him, but did not seem inclined to give himself any trouble about Pemulaway, but after dinner took his leave, saying he was going to Botany Bay to meet his wife. Banalong was absent several days; they said he was gone to assist at the ceremony of drawing a front tooth from some young men among the Camaragals, which gave rise to the idea that the tooth is exacted as a kind of tribute.

Araboo now resided with the Camaragals; when she left the clergyman's she promised to return with her sweetheart, and his wife; hence it appears evident that when they can procure two wives, the custom of the country does not prohibit their having them; though this custom seems very unreasonable, as the women bear no proportion to the men in point of number. It is generally believed that most of their wives are taken by force or surprize, from the tribes with which they are at variance; consequently, their enemies retaliate, and from the disproportion of the females to the males must have been more successful in their Sabinical expeditions.

Spears being frequently thrown at the settlers, it became absolutely necessary that a stop should be put to it, though his excellency wished to do it with as little severity as possible, yet he was convinced that a severe example must be made to have the desired effect. Accordingly a party was sent out consisting of fifty privates, besides officers; they were directed to proceed to the spot where the man was wounded; and to search for the natives who dwelt thereabouts, some of whom were to be secured and brought prisoners, or if it was found impracticable to take them alive, they were to put half a dozen of them to death—

death—Spears, and all other weapons which they happened to meet with were ordered to be destroyed and left on the spot, that they might see it was intended as a punishment inflicted on them—Particular attention was to be paid to the women and children, who were not to be molested on any account whatever; and as the governor wished to impress the idea that no deceit was ever practised, and that they might depend on having protection whenever it was offered; he ordered that none of the party should hold up their hands, which is the signal of friendship; nor to answer such signal if made them by the natives; they having lately behaved with great insolence on several occasions; and a punishment inflicted on a few, might in the end be an act of mercy to many.

Notwithstanding the most vigilant endeavours, the party was not able to get near any of them, as they made off at their approach, and eluded the pursuit. They saw Coalby near Botany Bay, where he was fishing, at whom they fired several shot. They returned to Sydney without any success; but the governor being determined if possible to make an example of some of them, again sent the party with the same orders they had before received.—They left Sydney towards evening with the hope of surprising some of the natives at their fires, but were disappointed, not a single native being seen during all the time they were out.

It was near a fortnight before Banalong made his appearance, when he brought his wife with him; he said he had been with the Camaragals, that several young men had undergone the operations of having their front teeth drawn, and tattooing, which is making those scars which

are considered, as ornamental by the natives— These scars are made by cutting two lines through the skin, parallel to each other, with a sharp shell or flint, and then stripping off the intermediate skin; the operation is repeated till the wound rises considerably above the surrounding flesh, when it is suffered to heal over. These painful embellishments are not very common among the women; Banalong showed a throwing stick which had been cut for the purpose of knocking out the front teeth; and it was generally supposed he had been employed in that office. He was on good terms with the Camaragals, and he said they were all good people; when he was asked if he had seen the man who threw the spear at the governor, he said yes, and had slept in the same cove with him; so that his former account of having quarrelled with, and beat him, was not believed. Barangaroo, who had been with him on this occasion, was painted in a different manner from what she had been before, and there appeared to have been a great deal of attention bestowed on her; her cheeks, nose, and upper lip, were rubbed over with red ochre, on which, and under the eyes, were laid spots of white clay; the small of her back was likewise rubbed with ochre, and by her deportment seemed desirous of shewing that she was finer than common. Shortly after two of the convicts being fishing, Banalong finding they had no arms in the boat, went alongside in his canoe, and robbed them of the fish they had taken; his wife and sister being in the canoe, and having several spears, the convicts were deterred from making any resistance. In consequence of this robbery, orders were given that no boat in future should go out of the cove unarmed.

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The next time the natives came to the settlement, they were told, that if any more spears were thrown they would all be killed; but these threats did not seem to make the smallest impression on them. Banalong coming soon after, he was charged with taking the fish from the two white men; he denied the charge with great assurance, asserting that he was a great distance from the place at the time; but when the people were confronted with him, he endeavoured to justify himself, but with so insolent an air, that he rather aggravated than excused the offence: he frequently mentioned the man who had been wounded, and threatened revenge; but on recollecting himself, he offered his hand to the governor, which being refused, he grew violent, and seemed inclined to make use of his stick: a centinel was called in, as it was feared he might commit some extravagance that would oblige his excellency to order him to be put to death; for his behaviour was savage and insolent in the extreme, and would have met with instant punishment in any other person; but they wished to bring him to reason, without having recourse to violent measures; and the governor was very unwilling to destroy that confidence he had been at so much pains to create in Banalong, which the slightest punishment would have done: he was therefore desired to come near the governor, but he refused, turned upon his heel, and went away. As he passed the wheelwright's shop, the workmen being at dinner, he stole a hatchet, with which he got clear off.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE natives continued to visit Sydney after Banalong's recent behaviour, and conducted themselves in such a manner as gave great reason to suppose he would never return ; this however, was not the case ; for having previously visited the fishing boats, to know if governor Philip was still angry with him, and if he would shoot him ; he appeared very desirous of knowing if he might go to the governor's house, at the same time naming a man who had stole the hatchet, and denied having used any threats ; however not being pleased with the answers that were given to his questions, he went away but returned in a few days, and went to the governor's, who, happened to see him come to the gate, ordered him away. He was seen soon afterwards, and seemed very desirous of being received again into favour ; he disclaimed any knowledge of the hatchet, or any intention of revenging the death of a man who had been shot. Governor Philip appeared to believe him, and he was suffered to go into the yard, which was always open to the natives ; some bread and fish were given him, but he was not permitted to enter the house as usual : though this degradation did not a little hurt his pride, he frequently repeated his visits.

Governor Philip had been very desirous of learning the reason that the females had two of the joints of the little finger cut off, and of seeing in what manner that operation was performed ; he had now an opportunity of gratifying a part of his wish : Coalby's wife coming to the settle-
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ment with a new born female, brought her infant to the governor's house ; and being told that his excellency would be present at the operation, it was accordingly performed. A ligature was applied round the little finger at the second joint ; but two days afterwards they brought the child again, the ligature was either broken or taken off ; this being told the mother, she took some hairs from the head of an officer who was present, and bound them very tight round the finger ; after some time a gangrene took place ; and though the child seemed uneasy when it was touched, it did not cry, nor was any attention paid to it after the ligature was applied. This operation had always been performed on the left hand, but this child was an exception, for it was the little finger of the right hand which underwent the operation : this bandage was continued until the finger was ready to drop off, when its parents took it to the surgeon, who at their request, separated it with a knife.

Banalong, after an absence of three weeks, during which time he had been particularly active in rendering services to a boat's crew, several of whom would have been lost but for his exertions, which were considered as a full atonement for his past behaviour, and he was admitted again into the favour of the governor. In consequence of this reconciliation the number of visitors increased, and the governor's yard became their head quarters.

Their medical operations partake more of the juggling than the Esculapian system. Coalby had formerly been wounded with a fish-gig below the left breast, and though it must have been done many years, as it was extremely difficult to perceive the scar ; yet it was supposed that he
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felt some pain from the straps of a knapsack, which he carried when out on an excursion with the governor : he had travelled two or three days with it on his shoulders, and the straps pressing against his breast, he complained of pain there.

He applied to an old man and his son, who had joined them in the excursion, for relief, and they prepared to perform the cure : the son began the ceremony, by taking a mouthful of water, which he spirted on the part affected, and then applying his mouth, began to suck as long as he could without taking breath, which appeared to make him sick, and when he rose up, for his patient was extended at full length on the grass, he walked about for some minutes ; he then repeated the suction three times, and he appeared, by drawing in his stomach, to feel the same pain he pretended to extract from the breast of his patient : and having picked up a bit of stick or stone, but with so little flight of hand that it was obvious to the whole party, he pretended to throw something which he had taken out of his mouth into the water. He undoubtedly threw something away, which must have been what he picked up ; but Coalby, after the ceremony was over, said it was what he had sucked out of his breast ; which was understood to be two barbs of a fish-gig, as he made use of the word *bullerdooul* ; but the governor was of a different opinion, and thought he meant two pains. Before this business was finished, the doctor felt the patient's back below the shoulder, and seemed to apply his fingers, as if he twitched something out ; after which he sat down by the patient, and put his right arm round his back ; the old man, at the same time, sat down at the other side of the patient, with his face the contrary way, and clasped

ed him round the breast with his right arm; each of them held one of the patient's hands, they continued in this situation several minutes, straining him very close, and thus ended the ceremony, when Coalby said he was perfectly well. He gave his worsted night-cap, and a share of his supper, as a fee to his doctors; and being asked if they were both of the faculty, he said yes, and a little boy that was with them was a doctor too; from whence it was supposed that the power of healing is hereditary, and descended from father to son.

As the natives frequently caught more fish than they could immediately use, great pains had been taken to induce them to barter it with the settlers at Paramatta for bread, vegetables, &c. Several of them had carried on this traffic, and there was reason to hope that a tolerable fish market would soon be established: among those who brought their fish was a young man that had lived some months with the governor, but had left the settlement, from time to time, to go a fishing: his canoe was a new one, and had been the first he had ever been master of, he was not a little proud of it, and accordingly valued it highly.

Strict orders had been given that their canoes should never be touched; and, indeed the interest of the marines and convicts should have secured them from insult; the traffic and intercourse tending much to their comforts, the balance being greatly in their favour; but in a very short time this amity and good understanding was interrupted by some villains, who had stove the canoe of the young man before mentioned. The moment he discovered the injury done him, he flew to the governor's in a violent rage, said the white men had broke his canoe, and

and that he would kill them ; he had his throwing stick, and several spears in his hand, and his hair, face, arms, and breast were painted red, which is a sign of the most implacable anger. It was not till the governor assured him that he would kill those that destroyed his canoe, that he would listen to any thing tending to divert him from his purpose of killing the white men ; he promised, at last, that he would leave it to the governor to punish them.

The offenders were soon discovered, and were severely flogged in the presence of Balderry ; but he was far from being satisfied, till he was told that one of them had been hanged. During their examination he appeared very impatient, and said that it belonged to him to punish the injury he had received. About a month after, when it was thought he had been amply compensated by various presents which the governor had given him ; by seeing the offenders punished ; and by supposing one of them had been hanged, yet he took the first opportunity of revenging himself, which plainly shews that these people do not readily forgive an injury. A convict who had strayed from the settlement, was met by two of the natives ; and he had scarce passed them when he was wounded in the back with a spear, and before he could recover himself he received a second wound in the side ; however, he got away ; and as they did not attempt to stop him to get his clothes, or take any thing from him, there was no doubt but the destruction of the canoe was the cause of this attack ; especially as the same evening several natives were seen round a fire, and being asked who it was that wounded the white man, they immediately answered, " Balderry." It is not a little remarkable

markable that these people always tell the names of those who have thrown spears at the colonists, or who have stole any thing from the settlement, if they are asked, though they are conscious that you mean to punish them; it might be thought to proceed from a principle of adhering to truth, did they not destroy this opinion by invariably denying any thing they may be charged with, though you see them commit the offence, and lay the blame on another who is not present; it is not only surprizing that they always discover the offenders, but this they do openly, without any fear or dread of the consequence.

The destruction of this canoe was a most unfortunate accident, as it prevented the natives from carrying their fish to Paramatta; and no canoe visited the settlement for some time after; and, besides, the governor wished to attach Balderry to himself, intending to take him to England when he returned. After absenting himself about a month or five weeks, Balderry began to make enquiries of the various parties he met, whether *beanah*, the governor was still angry; he was answered in the affirmative, and told that he would be killed for wounding a white man; yet this did not deter him from coming into the cove in a canoe, and the governor on being made acquainted with his appearance, ordered a party of marines to go and secure him. Banalong, who was present, seeing the soldiers go towards the point, gave him the alarm, and he got off. Governor Philip saw Banalong speaking to the young men in his canoe, and gave him to understand that Balderry should be killed; upon which he called out that the governor was still very angry; on hearing this Balderry paddled
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off pretty briskly to the opposite side of the harbour, and appeared to set their threats at defiance, and talked of spearing; but whether it was the governor or the soldiers that he threatened could not be distinguished, he being at too great a distance to hear distinctly. These people are very resolute, and when provoked set little value on their lives, so they can be revenged; they ever contrive to be even with you, whether you praise or threaten, and whenever a blow is given they are sure to return it, though their lives should pay for it. A number of natives having arrived at Sydney, amongst whom there was upwards of thirty women and children, they were treated with bread and rice as usual: they informed his excellency that Balderry was on the opposite side of the cove, with a party of his friends, armed. Whether his coming after what had passed proceeded from a supposition that he should not be punished, or that he was safe whilst surrounded by so many of his countrymen, it was thought necessary to order him to be taken, as soon as the visitants should be gone; for as Balderry could not be seized without their hearing the dispute, it was probable they would suppose themselves in danger, and make use of their spears in defence of their countryman, in which case many of them must have been killed; and this was the more likely, as many of the guests were strangers, and this was their first visit to the colony.

As soon as they had taken their leave, a party of soldiers were ordered after the delinquent, but before they got sight of him, he had been advertised of his danger by Nanbarre, who hearing what was going forward had left the place; a serjeant and a party were sent after him: in their
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way they met several of the natives, who joined them in a friendly manner, but while they were talking to the serjeant, one of them had the audacity to attempt to wrest a firelock from one of the soldiers; however he failed in the attempt, but immediately after a spear was thrown, supposed to be by Balderry: two muskets were now fired among the natives, which wounded one of them in the leg, but, unfortunately, neither of the offenders. A strong party was immediately ordered to some brick fields, where a pretty numerous body of them had assembled; but Nanbarre, ever faithful to his countrymen, on seeing the soldiers form on the parade, took to the woods, and stripped himself that he might not be known, joined the natives, and put them on their guard; after which he returned, and saw the governor pass with some officers whilst he was hid in a bush; he afterwards met an officer's servant, and asked where the governor and soldiers were going; on being told, he laughed, and said they were too late for the people were all gone.

Banalong came in soon afterwards with his wife; and though he was told that the soldiers were gone out to take Balderry, yet the intelligence did not prevent him from eating a hearty dinner, and when he went away, he left a large bundle of spears, fish-gigs, and various other articles, under the care of the governor. As the natives knew that the governor only meant to punish those who threw the spears, the late disagreements did not in the least interrupt their visits, and they called upon their friends with the same familiarity as if nothing had happened. They were asked what became of the wounded man; they said he was gone to his tribe; that

the wound was but of little consequence, and soon would be healed.

Barangaroo was now near her time of lying-in, when the colonists had an opportunity of seeing their preparations on the occasion: she had two nets hanging from her neck, one of which being new, the governor was desirous of obtaining, and it was given him, after she had taken a large piece of the tea tree out of it, nicely folded up, and which was intended to lay her infant upon and which is the only preparation previous to the ceremony of an infant's introduction into the world, that is made by lying-in women in this country. The bark of the tea tree is thick in proportion to the size of the trunk, and is composed of a great number of layers of very thin bark, not unlike in appearance to the birch tree, but so exquisitely soft, that nothing this country affords can be better calculated for the purpose for which it is intended. Banalong, however, desired to have a blanket for the child, which was given him, and next day a net made in the English manner, which was more acceptable to his wife than the one she had given the governor. Banalong informed the governor that his wife intended to do him the honour of lying-in at his house; this favour his excellency declined, telling him that she would be so much better accommodated at the hospital, that he could not think of risking her health, by suffering her to be any where else, which compliment highly gratified both husband and wife, and they accordingly took up their quarters there. Banalong had frequently solicited the governor to receive Balderry again into favour, but was always refused; however, on being told that the poor fellow was extremely ill, the surgeon was desired to go and see him; he

he found him in a high fever, and the first question he asked was, whether the governor continued angry with him, and if he would let him go to the hospital to be cured. Banalong, who went with the surgeon, returned to the governor, who told he was not angry now, and that he might bring his companion to the settlement; he said he would, and early the next morning Balderry made his appearance: at first he was under great apprehensions, but on the governor's taking him by the hand, and promising that when he was recovered he should live with him again, his fears subsided: he appeared very ill, and went with the surgeon and Banalong to the hospital.

CHAPTER XIV.

I HAVE been thus minute in detailing the behaviour of the natives, and the persevering diligence and inexhaustible patience of Governor Philip, in conciliating and familiarizing them, in the infancy of the colony, that, should they hereafter attain any degree of civilization, posterity may know to whom they are indebted for the extrication of numberless tribes from the rudest barbarism, thereby adding to society the inhabitants of a country, which occupies a section of the globe of greater extent than all Europe, and capable of becoming a great and powerful empire.

With regard to religion they sing an hymn, or song of joy, from day-break till sun-rise; but we have not been yet able to discover whether they have any particular object to whom they pay adoration: neither do any of the celestial bodies seem to occupy more of their attention than any of the animals which inhabit this extensive country;

country; yet they do not appear entirely ignorant of a future state, as they say the bones of the dead are in the grave, and their bodies in the clouds; or may probably have been misunderstood, and mean that the soul is in the clouds. They most certainly burn their dead; for on opening a new made grave, a quantity of white ashes were found, which appeared to have been but lately deposited there; among the ashes were found part of a human jaw bone, and a piece of a skull, which had not been sufficiently burnt to prevent its being perfectly ascertained. The grave was not a foot deep, but the earth was raised as high round it as are the common graves in England. The sun, moon, and stars, they call *wera* (bad). Araboo once went into fits on seeing a falling star, and said that every body would be destroyed; although some who were present insisted that she particularly alluded to the "*murray nowey*," the Sirius, which was lost some time after at Norfolk Island. From Banalong we understood that they believe in apparitions, which they call "*mane*;" he describes them as ascending from the earth with a horrid noise, seizing any one in its way by the throat: he says these apparitions singe the hair and beards of those to whom they appear, which he said was a very painful operation; rubbing the face after every application of the firebrand.

Their principal diversion is that of dancing, for which ceremony they prepare themselves with more than ordinary attention; they are all in their birth-day suits, like so many Adams and Eves, without even a fig-leave to parry the inquisitive glance of the curious European. The young women employ all their art in decorating the young men, who are chiefly ornamented with

with streaks of white, drawn with pipe clay, and in different forms, according to the taste of the man himself, or to the lady who adorns him. They are as emulous of appearing fine as the most finished petit-maitre preparing for the birthday ball of his favourite mistress. Their paint cannot be applied without moistening, and the lady, in drawing the streaks down the face, which is the most essential part of the decoration, spits in the face of her friend whom she is adorning, from time to time, as the ochre or clay get dry. Their dances are always at the close of the day, as they prefer fire-light to that of the sun on these occasions.

The dance begins by a few young boys, and is encreased by the men and women gradually falling in, to the number of thirty or forty, but mostly men: it is truly wild and savage, yet in many parts order and regularity are very apparent. One man would frequently single himself out from the rest, and running round the whole of the performers, sing out in a loud voice, some expression delivered in a peculiar tone of voice; he would then fall in with the rest of the dancers, who alternately led forward in the centre, and there exhibit their utmost skill and dexterity in the most difficult contortions of the body, which, in their opinion, constitute the principal beauties of dancing: one of the most striking is that of placing their feet very wide apart, and by an extraordinary exertion of the muscles of the thighs and legs, move their knees in a trembling and very astonishing manner, such as no person in the colony could any ways imitate; of course much practice is required to arrive at any degree of perfection in this singular motion. There is great variety in their dances; sometimes they

they dance in pairs, and frequently turn back to back, then suddenly turn and face each other; sometimes they all sit on the ground, with their feet under them, in the manner of the Chinese, and at a particular word or signal they are on their feet in a moment, which they perform without any assistance from their hands; they then run back in rows, and again advance in the same order. Sometimes they form a circle with some distinguished person in the centre; at other times all the dancers have green boughs in their hands; in all the different figures they generally finish by a certain number of their principal dancers advancing to the front, and go through the difficult part of the dance, the quivering motion of the knees, upon which the whole company faces to the front, and go through the same motions, the most expert being generally in the centre. Their music consists of two sticks of very hard wood, one of which the musician holds to his breast in the manner of a violin, and strikes it with the other, in tolerable good time. The performers sing the whole time of the dance; assisted by several boys and girls who are seated at their feet, and by the manner of crossing their thighs form a hollow between them and their belly, upon which they beat time with the flat of the hand, which makes an odd though not disagreeable sound. They are very prone to flattery, and if any strangers are present always ask for their approbation, and appear highly delighted if you say "*boojerie cariberie*," a very good dance—which never fails to produce more than extraordinary exertions.

They are very dexterous in striking fish: the spear of the gig with which they take them is about ten feet in length, but they can increase
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it by joints as we do our fishing-rods in England ; they have several prongs barbed with the bone of a fish, or of some animal. The fisher lies across the canoe, his face in the water, and his fish-gig ready for darting ; thus he lies motionless, and by his face being beneath the surface, he can see the fish distinctly ; in this manner they strike the fish with great certainty. The women are chiefly employed with lines and hooks ; the lines manufactured from the bark of trees, the hooks commonly of the pearl of different shells : the talons of birds of prey they sometimes make use of, but the former are most esteemed. The women are frequently seen in a miserable canoe with two or three children, fishing the whole day in the edge of a surf that would terrify an old seaman to trust himself near in a good stout boat. The men are excellent divers, and remain a surprising time in the surfs where their canoes cannot live :—whatever they bring up to the surface they throw on shore, where their comrade attends to receive it. Having a fire ready kindled for cooking, they broil or roast all their food ; they have not the least conception of boiling, for one of the natives watching an opportunity when nobody was attending to the kettle, plunged his hand into the boiling water to take the fish ; of course, to his utter astonishment, he was terribly scalded. They procure fire with great labour, by fixing the pointed end of a round stick into a hole made in a flat piece of wood, and whirling it round swiftly with both hands, sliding them up and down till the operator is fatigued, when he is relieved by some of his companions ; each takes his turn till the fire is produced : from the labour attending this process, it is no wonder that

that they are seldom seen without a piece of lighted wood in their hand. When they mean to evince a partiality to any stranger, they immediately assume his name, calling him by theirs ; this they consider as the highest compliment they can pay an Englishman, and are highly pleased at being called by their new name. Of all their customs, that of making love would be the farthest from meeting the approbation of my fair countrywomen, that ceremony being in this country, always prefaced by a sound beating, which the lady receives as a matter of course, with all the meekness imaginable.

CHAPTER XV.

WE had now upwards of a thousand acres of cleared land at Paramatta, three hundred and fifty of which were in wheat and maize ; but though we had frequent showers of rain, yet not in sufficient quantities to compensate for the excessive drought which had been experienced in the preceding months ; and from the ground being new, and requiring more work than was in the power of the settlers to bestow on it, the grain in general had a very unpromising appearance. There are about two hundred acres laid out in gardens, as much more prepared for turnips and potatoes, and the remainder closed in for feeding cattle. We are very badly off for manure, and ere the colony can properly flourish it must be stocked with cattle, the ground being infinitely too poor of itself ever to produce crops sufficient for us to depend on it solely for subsistence.

sistence. The sudden vicissitudes of the weather must also render our harvests very precarious, as well as prove injurious to the health of the new comers; it often happens that there is a change from forty to fifty degrees twice in one day. It is no unfrequent circumstance to see the country strewn with numbers of birds, fallen from the trees, unable to support the intense heat of the meridian sun. Numbers of convicts fall victims, but it must not be wholly ascribed to the weather, as the debilitated state in which they are for the most part landed, would, were it a more favourable climate, be attended with a considerable mortality; and they are generally so weak that they cannot be put to any kind of labour, but are employed in weeding and pulling grafs for the purpose of thatching: we have frequently four or five hundred on the doctor's list, who who are individually visited daily by the surgeon; upwards of fifty have died in a month, in the generality of whom nature appears entirely exhausted, and many of whom were so fairly worn out, that they expired without a groan, and to all appearance did not experience the smallest degree of pain.

From a most humane suggestion of Captain Parker of the Gorgon, the governor issued orders for a general survey to be taken of the condition of the convicts on their landing from the different transports; and a strict investigation taking place, it appeared that some of the captains had very much abridged their unfortunate passengers of the allowance stipulated by government for their subsistence; and this inhuman practice had been carried to such an extent in some of the ships, that it appeared many had been literally starved to death. A strong and pointed representation
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of the circumstance was sent home to government, which will, I hope, put an effectual stop to such nefarious proceedings.

Some of the convicts had entertained an idea, that they could range along the coast till they reached some of the Chinese settlements; subsisting themselves on Oysters and other shell-fish, having been told that there was a copper coloured tribe one hundred and fifty miles to the northward, who were much more civilized than the natives they were with, and who trafficked with the Dutch from Timor, where they would be free. With these notions several parties set off from Sydney Cove and Rose-Hill, but after some days straggling some were taken, and others returned of their own accord, induced by the imperative command of hunger; and as some were supposed to be still lurking in the woods, afraid of returning lest they should be punished for leaving the settlement, the governor less inclined to punish than to convince them of their error, promised a general pardon to every one who should return within five days; at the same time declaring that an exemplary punishment would be inflicted on those who should be taken after that period. Accordingly several returned, and appeared sensible of the lenity shewn them, but some of them appeared capable of the most desperate attempts, and even talked of repelling force by force; they were, however, given to understand that no mercy would be shewn them on the least disposition to mutiny, and that any who were near those that might be so disposed would be considered as principals, and treated accordingly. Almost all the deserters returned, and those who were still missing, was supposed to be murdered by the natives, and the miserable
state

state of those that returned would, it was thought, most effectually prevent any more excursions of the like nature.

The purchases I had made at the Cape, as well as the presents I brought from England, enabled me to furnish the officers and settlers with various little articles, which in general were not to be had by the ships, so that in a short time I had collected the following valuable stock for my farm yard; a sow in pig; two fine porkers; a young she goat, and two kids; an English dunghill cock, three laying hens, and one with a brood of chickens and young ducks: these, with a young kangaroo, which I had been at infinite pains in rearing, three native dogs, myself, a convict woman servant and her son Timothy, a youth between twelve and thirteen, a tractable and useful lad, comprised the whole family. Having always had a strong predilection for horticulture, the garden employed great part of my time, and is now as prosperous and flourishing as any in the colony. Governor Philip, when he visits Rose Hill, takes great delight in it, and gives me much credit for its improvement, as well as for the appearance and spirit of industry manifest in the convicts under my superintendence.

Having contracted an intimacy with a young man who had taken one of the farms on the northern boundary, about four miles from Parramatta, I generally walked over once or twice a week: as I was returning from thence one afternoon, with no other company but my boy Tim, who, having evinced a great partiality for me, was now my constant companion, a large male kangaroo crossed the path just before us; I immediately took my gun from the boy, fired at the animal, and disabled one of his hind legs, which

very much impeded his flight; however, he preserved his distance for near an hour, when getting a fair shot at him, I lodged a ball in the back part of his head, which effectually did his business.

Upon examining our prize, I found it would be impossible for us to get it home without help: we therefore searched for a place to conceal it till the next afternoon, when I meant to return for it with a couple of men: a few paces from where it lay we perceived a cavity on the slope of a deep ravine, to which we dragged the carcase, and covering it with stones and grass, began to think of making the best of our way to the settlement.

The sun was now setting, and I began to be alarmed at being so far from home: in the eagerness of our pursuit I had forgot to take any bearings by my pocket compass, and the day closing ere we had reached any known path, increased my apprehensions in the extreme. Poor Tim, though half dead with fatigue, endeavoured to keep up my spirits, which he perceived were much agitated: "He was certain sure"—he said "that we were in the right road, and that we should get home time enough to muster the people at nine, the hour fixed for that purpose; and that if we were obliged to sleep in the woods, why, he would cut some grass for my bed, and stand centinel with the gun while I lay down, for he was not afraid to fire; and besides, my dear master," added he, "you know the natives are so 'feard of guns, that should they come I only need shew it, and they'll be off like a shot." The boy's courage and fidelity charmed me, and put me to the blush to think I had so
little

little command of myself as not to conceal my uneasiness from him.

After rambling for near two hours, we could not perceive that we were any nearer home than at sunset, but rather conjectured we had taken a different rout, as we did not recollect a single object that now presented itself; it being a fine star light night, we could distinguish the river at times through the trees at some distance; but presenting a different appearance to any part we had ever seen; we quickened our pace with the hope of speedily reaching its banks, when to my great mortification, we were stopped by a deep ravine. I now abandoned all hopes of reaching the settlement; and, as the poor boy was almost exhausted with fatigue, made up my mind to passing the night on the spot.

With this determination, we began to cut grass, and pull some boughs, in order to make a fire; for though it had been intensely hot in the middle of the day, I could now very well have made use of a great coat. While I was thus employed, Tim, who had got some distance from me, came running back, saying, I might save myself the trouble, for he had found a snug sleeping place for us, with plenty of dried wood for a fire, I followed him to the spot, and found it was a hut inhabited by the natives when hunting; as I had no apprehensions of their returning, the hunting season having just closed, I got a light from a flash of powder, and in a few minutes kindled a comfortable fire. In one corner of the hut was a bundle of grass ready dried, which we spread to lie down on; but I could not prevail on the boy to think of sleep; no, if I would trust him with the gun he would keep watch. Not being inclined to sleep myself, I took a book

from my pocket, and, by fire light, endeavoured to amuse myself till day-break. I had scarce perused half a dozen pages, ere poor Tim had sunk into a sound sleep; how long it was before I followed his example, or how long I should have continued it, it is difficult to determine, had I not been waked by an acute pain in one of my hands, which I found was occasioned by the bite of some ants, whom I had accidentally molested in my sleep; I called Tim, and sallied forth; following the winding of the ravine about a mile, we arrived at its termination, and perceived a break in the high lands before us, through which I distinctly saw Rose-Hill, about six or seven miles distant; this prospect revived our spirits, which were beginning to flag, with the reflection that if we escaped every other danger that of being starved to death was inevitable, unless we could extricate ourselves from the labyrinth in which we were involved. Having set the spot by my compass, I found it bore W. S. W. as we descended to the plain we lost sight of the object, but continued our course in that direction till we arrived at a swamp, which cost us some time in getting round, there being no possibility of crossing it: we had now got to a part almost impassable from the quantity of underwood, and the trees were so close together that we could scarce set three yards before us, and were proceeding very slowly through a thicket, when we were alarmed by a deep groan, apparently but a few paces distant; a sound so unlooked for, for some time rivetted us to the spot. Not being immediately able to perceive from whence the groan issued, I advanced with great caution about a dozen paces, when I discovered a cave in the side of a rock; I was at first

first for retreating, but on recollecting that perhaps I might render some service to the afflicted, and that I equally stood in need of assistance, or perhaps might perish with hunger. I examined the priming of my gun, forced Tim, with some difficulty behind me, and approaching the entrance of the cave, a most interesting scene presented itself to my view: a young creature seated on a jut of the rock, mournfully contemplating the extended body of a man, whose expiring groans had just pierced our ears; all her faculties were so absorbed with grief that we were yet unnoticed: a sympathising sorrow pervaded all my frame; I gave my gun to Tim, and made signs for him to retire, lest the sight should alarm her; when she perceived me she uttered a faint shriek, and sunk motionless on the body. Observing a small pond a few paces from the cave, I sent the boy to bring some water in his hat, and gently moving her from the body to the mouth of the cave, raised her up, and supported her in my arms; the water soon brought her to, when she raised her head, and regarded me with a look blended with grief and terror; I endeavoured, by every sign I could suggest, to do away her fears, and retired a few paces, leaving her at liberty to go from the cave had she chose. Gaining confidence by my behaviour, she made me understand that the deceased was her brother, who, faint with the loss of blood, could not reach their habitation, and night approaching they had turned from the road to shelter themselves in this cave. On examining the body I found a deep wound under the left pap, made with a spear, part of which, being barbed, remained in the wound: I made her understand, partly by signs, and partly by some words

I had picked up, that I had unfortunately lost my way, and had been all night in the woods: she shook her head, and pointed to her brother, signifying that she could not leave him, but that their habitation was not far off, and making me observe a hill about two miles distant, gave me to understand it was in their neighbourhood. I made signs to her, that if she would go and acquaint her friends with her situation, I would watch by her brother till her return; her eye glistened with joy as she gathered my meaning, and with an ascending inclination of the head, more eloquent and expressive of her feelings than in the power of the most refined language to convey, she quitted us with a celerity quickened by fraternal love, and in a few moments was out of sight.

This interesting and pathetic scene had so wholly absorbed all my faculties, that not a single reflection of danger had occurred to me in the approaching interview, when Tim, who had been witness to several instances of the perfidy of the natives towards the settlers, strongly urged me to leave the body, and make the best of our way home. Roused by his solicitations, a momentary impulse of fear came over me, and my mind had half yielded to his importunity; when casting my eye on the body methought I perceived it heave; a feeble sigh convinced me that life was yet unextinguished, and the imperative call of humanity decided my operations: a death-like dew had bespread his face and limbs, which I dried with my handkerchief, and clasped his body with my hand. Tim most readily bore his part in this act of humanity, and a returning warmth encouraged us to redouble our efforts; in a few moments we perceived a faint

faint pulsation, which gradually increased: at this juncture we were surprised by the return of his sister, accompanied by her father, another elderly man, and a boy about twelve years of age; seeing us busied about the body, they stopped short at the entrance of the hut, seemingly at a loss for our conduct.

I beckoned my young friend, who advanced with the utmost confidence, and giving her the hand of her brother, she exclaimed, with great emotion, "*Didgerry-goor, didgerry-goor,*" I thank you, I thank you;—and turning to her father, called him to her: I immediately quitted my station, and resigned him to their care; the old man examined the wound, and with great seeming skill extracted the barb; during the operation the youth lifted up his eyes, and observing his father, a glance of filial affection beamed forth. Hope now tranquilised the boding fears of the little group; Yeariana, his sister, supported him while the father and his friend were contriving how they should remove him to their dwelling; finding it necessary to dispatch some one for their canoe, the river which passed their habitation winding within fifty paces of us, and which was the safest and only conveyance he could bear; Yeariana proposed going for it; and it being our direct road to Paramatta, I seized the opportunity of accompanying her; in less than an hour we arrived at the foot of a small mountain, when Yeariana, like an arrow from a bow, abruptly quitted us, leaving her brother, the boy before-mentioned, as our guide, we were not long before we discovered near a dozen natives, with Yeariana at their head, waiting our arrival; she had sent off the canoe for her brother, and had got some dried fish, which she presented us,
and

and led us to her hut or cave, which was a large excavated rock on the bank of a very pleasant branch of the river. The reception we met with from this grateful people almost bordered upon adoration; the mother of Yeariana was quite troublesome with her caresses for my service to her son; and I could perceive in the mild eye of her daughter that it anxiously sought a farther acquaintance. Upon enquiry I found we were near five miles from Paramatta, but that none of them had ever visited the settlement; however, Batcherry, her brother, offered to be our conductor, provided I would take care of him, and see him part of the way next day; promising to see her again shortly, I took my leave, and arrived at Paramatta about noon, heartily fatigued. My absence had not caused any alarm at the settlement, as they thought I had gone to Sydney Cove, which I had done twice or thrice, and staid there all night.

Every object that presented itself to Batcherry filled him with surprize and astonishment, and the poor lad had scarce time to eat or drink, so much was he taken up with admiration of the wonders that surrounded him. The next morning I set him on his way home, giving him a hatchet for himself, and a string of beads for his sister, whose image had made a strong impression on my mind, being the most interesting I ever saw: with a form that might serve as a perfect model for the most scrupulous statuary; her face and hair unlike any thing I had ever seen in this country; the first of a perfect oval, or Grecian shape, with features regularly beautiful, and as fine a pair of eyes as can be imagined; the latter long, and of a shining black; she was likewise of a much lighter colour than any of her countrywomen,

countrywomen, and might easily have been taken for a beautiful Oriental Creole.

Taking three men, and the boy Tim, we went in search of the spot where we had concealed the kangaroo, and with some difficulty found it; we cut a couple of stout sticks, and laying the animal across it, took spell and spell till we reached home, when I rewarded the men with a fore quarter for their trouble.

It was more than a week ere I could spare time to pay a visit to the abode of my charming Yeariana; when arranging my business so that, should I be detained all night, my absence would be no material consequence, I took Tim with me, and with much more facility than I expected found my way to Paculbenah, the name of the place where the family of Yeariana resided: Batcherry saw us as we turned the foot of the mountain, and running back to the cave, gave notice of our coming: the whole family, except Palerino, who was not sufficiently recovered, were ranged at the entrance of their cave; their joy at seeing me was evident in their countenances; the old man took me by the hand, and led me to his son, who was now out of danger; he expressed his thanks by a hearty squeeze of the hand, and a look that amply explained his meaning; his sister was not deficient in expressions of satisfaction, by every little attention in her power. Having brought plenty of beef, bread, and a little brandy with us, lest we might stand in need of refreshment, we seated ourselves in a circle on the ground, and spread our fare on a piece of canvas which had contained it; every eye was fixed on me, and every motion gave fresh cause of wonder. There being no knives among them, I carved the meat for them all, and

and gave to every one a part ; the beef they eat with great avidity, but did not relish the bread, and rinsed their mouth several times after it. When the meat was all eaten, they produced some dried fish, roots, and two or three kinds of berries, and a nut resembling the chesnut in taste ; every person having finished eating, Wanjarkoo, the father, clapping his hands thrice, they all started upon their feet, and prepared to resume their usual avocations ; the old man and his wife went to the canoe to finish their day's fishing ; Batcherry to cut grass ; and Yeariana was left to attend her brother Palerino, who lay on a bed of dried grass in one corner of the hut ; she, after some minutes pause, took my hand, and drawing me towards Palerino, joined it with his, and whispering something to him, he cried "*Boojerie, boojerie,*" Good, good Palerino—and by signs asked my name, when I repeated "George," two or three times ; then squeezing my hand to his breast, he made me understand that he would change names with me, and I must call him George, and he would call me Palerino, and that he would come and bring Yeariana with him to the settlement, as soon as he was well : this ceremony was finished by his sister kissing us both, repeating "*Boojerie Palerino, boojerie George.*"—Good Palerino, good George, and appeared quite overjoyed. They now made me understand, that the day before I found them, as they had been out together, searching for a kind of grub, which is a part of their food, they were surprized by two of the tribe of Wangal, their mortal enemies, one of whom her brother killed with a fish gig ; during the conflict she had thrown a stone at the survivor, which so disabled him that he retreated with difficulty to his

his canoe, and rowed off with precipitation: Pallerino faint with the loss of blood, could not reach their habitation, and night approaching, they had turned from the road to shelter themselves in the cave where I found them.

Highly pleased with my visit, I took my leave an hour before sun-set, when they repeated their assurances of coming to the settlement, which was what I ardently wished for, as I flattered myself I should be able to persuade them to stay some time with us, and thereby cement that friendship which had just taken root, and might eventually prove beneficial to the settlement, as well as promote certain views just dawning on my mind with respect to Yeariana.

Mr. Wentworth, who resides at Norfolk Island, had been appointed to the same station there that I occupy at Paramatta, which joined to his skill in surgery, renders him an invaluable acquisition; and as we frequently correspond, he has kindly promised me an account of the rise and progress of that settlement: he speaks with rapture of the urbanity of Governor King to all ranks and descriptions, and whose unremitting attention to the clearing and cultivating the land, already enables the settlers, of which there are between forty and fifty sailors and marines, who have parcels of land allotted them of sixty acres each, and about twenty convicts who have ten acres each, not only to support themselves, but to have something to spare; indeed they have greatly the advantage of those settled at Sydney and Paramatta, the ground being much more fertile; the wheat frequently producing an increase of twenty fold, and it is conjectured that future harvests will be more productive. Potatoes thrive exceedingly, upwards of an hundred having been
seen

seen to a single root, and every kind of garden vegetable shoots up in abundance, and in the greatest perfection.

To ascertain in what time a man might be able to cultivate ground sufficient to support himself, the governor about a twelvemonth ago, ordered an acre of ground to be cleared in a good situation ; it was then given to a very decent steady convict, who was told, that if he was industrious, in order to prove the experiment, he should have thirty acres given him, cleared in like manner. He was very assiduous, and at the expiration of six months, requested another acre to be cleared for him, which was granted ; and he is now able to support himself, without drawing any assistance from the public stores.

The declining health of our worthy governor rendering his return to England indispensable for its re-establishment, he made the necessary arrangements for the future government of the colony : and having persuaded Banalong and another native to accompany him, embarked on board the Atlantic transport, and with the benedictions of every person in the settlement, proceeded on his voyage to England.

END OF FIRST PART.

A

VOYAGE

TO

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART II.

CHAP. XVI.

THE long silence which I have observed, must have led my friends to conclude that I had relinquished all my European connexions,—that from some untoward accident, or the natural visitation of Providence, they would never hear from me more;—but that not being the case; after assuring them that it merely proceeded from the multiplicity of business, and the unceasing vigilance my situation demanded, I shall without further preface resume my narrative.

The government of this colony now devolved upon Francis Grose, Esq. Commandant of the New South Wales Corps. He immediately
 N superceded

superfeded the civil power at Paramatta by the military, and all complaints in future were to be preferred to the military officer on duty there. Hitherto the magistracy regulated all differences, and punished such offences as required immediate cognizance on the spot; reporting his proceedings, from time to time, to the governor; and every order emanating from his excellency, respecting the regulation of the convicts, was promulgated through the same channel.

At Sydney, similar regulations took place, and all reference to the civil magistrate was in future to be dispensed with. It had been usual with the magistrates to hold a kind of court weekly, or as often as occasion might require; and to inflict such punishment as they deemed proportionate to the offence, always reporting their proceedings as before stated.

At this time the magistracy consisted of the Lieutenant Governor and the Judge Advocate, who were justices of the peace in virtue of their commissions; the Rev. Mr. Johnston, Augustus Alt, and Richard Atkins, Esqrs. who had been sworn in as magistrates by governor Philip.

No inconvenience having arisen from the former mode of dispensing justice, the cause of the change cannot be easily accounted for; unless it were that predilection military governors generally possess, of concentrating all the power in their own hands.

Governor Philip had gratuitously distributed among the settlers, stock of various kinds, for the purpose of breeding; but he was scarce out of sight of the settlement when the greater part
was

was brought to market; when, had not the officers purchased the whole, his benevolent intentions would have been frustrated, by the greater part being prematurely consigned to the pot or the spit.

New regulations now took place in the working hours of the convicts,—the time of labour was fixed from five in the morning till nine, and then rested until four, when they resumed their work, which terminated at sun set. This was a very salutary alteration, as they not only avoided the scorching ray of the noon day sun, but had an opportunity of earning a trifle for themselves, at their respective trades.

About this time a very serious calamity befel the settlement, the weather was excessive sultry, and the grass having been set on fire by the natives raged on all sides, whereby several of the gardens were destroyed, and I was in the utmost jeopardy of losing my little all.—The progress of the fire, by the efforts of the settlers at Paramatta and its neighbourhood, being checked, and nearly extinguished, but a spark lodging among the thatch of a house on the adjoining farm, soon spread out into a blaze, and consumed the same, out houses, &c, and it was only by the greatest exertions it was prevented from communicating to my premises.

From the arrival of several American vessels, New England rum, now began to circulate in considerable quantities, the baneful effects of which were soon conspicuous, in the frequent intoxication of the convicts.—The fondness they evinced for this deleterious liquor was incredible; they would run any hazard to pro-

cure it, and preferred receiving it as the price of their labour, to any other article, either of provision or cloathing.

To remedy this evil, the governor issued an order, wherein he stated that if it ever appeared that a convict was possessed of liquor supplied by the commissaries, that he should consider them as responsible for any irregularities that might happen in consequence of such injudicious and reprehensible conduct.

A deplorable instance of the mischievous effects of inebriety now happened, Elenor M'Cave, wife of Charles Williams, a settler, one of my neighbours, with an infant, and a Mrs. Green, was drowned returning to Parramatta from Sydney, where they had been spending the day, drinking and revelling; it blowing fresh the boat heeled considerably, and the woman, Green, getting up suddenly to move a bag of rice to windward, to prevent its getting wet, the boat upset, and the two women and child were drowned: the child was snatched from the mother's hold, who was sinking with it, and brought on shore, but for want of proper aid expired.—The father and mother of this child was notorious in the colony for their loose behaviour; previous to their leaving Sydney they had been wrangling and fighting with each other, and the woman wished every evil might befall her and the infant in her womb (she was six months gone with child) if she went home with her husband—the bodies were found soon after, and Williams buried his wife and child before his own door. This mournful event made not the least impression on this hardened character; for a few days after he had
thus

thus buried his wife, he was seen sitting at his door, with a bottle of rum in his hand, and actually drinking one glass himself, and pouring the next over her grave, till it was emptied: saying at every glass, "there's your share, my old girl," concluding with, "the devil's in it if you won't be quiet now."

Being upon duty, looking out for some of the stragglers, I fell in with one Gray, who had been very notorious for his villainies, and who had eluded the vigilance of the magistrates at Sydney; I presented my piece and threatened to shoot him if he did not immediately march before me to the settlement, which he did very quietly, and having disposed of him securely for the night, sent him the next morning under a proper escort down to Sydney.

He had formerly been sent to Norfolk Island for several crimes he had committed, and, the term of his sentence being expired, had returned here as a free man; he had hired himself as a servant to one of the New South Wales Corps; one who by great industry and the most rigid economy had scraped up between thirty and forty pounds; but having most indiscreetly made this fellow acquainted with his riches, and also where he kept them, the natural propensity to stealing reigning paramount in this gentleman's constitution, he made no scruple of moving off with the whole sum, and several other articles which lay in his way. When upon his trial, he very readily admitted the fact, and on being urged to restore the property, he mentioned a spot where he said he had secured it, but those that were sent not being able to find it, he was conducted to the place himself,

when, accidentally meeting the Lieutenant Governor by the way, in order to interest his humanity in his favour, he threw himself on the ground, counterfeiting the most terrible convulsions; but his artifice was too shallow,—he was instantly tied up and punished with 100 lashes. After this he would not make any discovery, and as there was no direct evidence against him, he was sent to the hospital, and soon after discharged.

Yeariana had now become, as it were, a part of my family, seldom spending a day in the week with her old friends; Batcherry could not be persuaded on any account to leave the farm, and as he began to jabber a little English, I found him very useful. My domestic concerns were now assuming a very promising aspect, when they were suddenly deranged by an adventure in which Palerino, the brother of Yeariano, was the principal personage.

Palerino had been with me at the farm, and in the afternoon I had persuaded him to take a tiff of weak punch, which I had made to alleviate my thirst, it being a very sultry day:—the beverage pleased him, and he made repeated applications to the jugg till he finished its contents. This unusual drink soon operated upon him, causing his eyes to sparkle, and he became quite merry and frolicksome: the punch being made weak, did not produce on him any disagreeable effect.

He took his leave about an hour before sunset, and had proceeded nearly half-way, when he fell in with a party of the tribe of Tugegal, who were wrangling, and appeared ready to go to loggerheads. Palerino recognized among them

them one of his most intimate friends, and at the same instant saw him knocked down with a club by one of the party;—exhilarated with what he had drank, Palerino flew upon the aggressor like a tyger, and wresting the club from him struck him to the ground, the blow falling on the temple, and being a very violent one, proved his immediate death. The rest of the party not being of kin to the deceased took no part in the fray. They bore off the body on their shoulders, leaving the termination of the affair to be settled by his relations.

Palerino very soon perceived the dangerous situation which his intemperate zeal had hurried him into, and on his return home apprized the family of what had happened.

The very high sense of honour inherent in these people, prevented Palerino from endeavouring to evade the enquiries that were made after him by the friends of the deceased,—he promised to be ready to surrender himself into their hands, and accordingly a day was appointed for retribution.

It is a custom among them that when one kills another of a different tribe, if they are on friendly terms,—whosoever should be the offender—to surrender him up to the party aggrieved; and he is destined to be speared to death, as an expiatory sacrifice to the manes of their murdered friend.

The news of this rencounter reaching the farm by means of Batcherry, plunged Yeariano into the deepest distress; she well knew that her brother's life would be the forfeit of his indiscretion; and notwithstanding my utmost in-
treaties,

treaties, and endeavours to soothe her, she forced herself from my arms, and quitting my habitation, took the road to Paculbenah, the residence of her tribe, with such speed that it was impossible to overtake her.

In a state of the most disagreeable and painful incertitude I remained for about ten days, my business of peace officer requiring my constant attendance, I could not leave the district without express permission, or upon duty; the disorderly and riotous behaviour of the convicts in general rendering it absolutely necessary to keep a strict and continual watch upon their conduct.

I was relieved from this suspense by Batcherry, from whose countenance I conjectured that nothing very terrible had happened. I asked where his sister was, he smiled, and said, "you forget poor Palerino—tho' he be very well too;" then said I "Yeariana is well?" "ees, ees, very well, she be here presently," and before I had time to ask any more questions, a gentle tap made me look round, when my eyes met those of the lovely girl, beaming with love, satisfaction and joy. She made me understand that her brother had been happily extricated from the perilous situation which his late adventure had brought him into.

It seems that the young native in whose defence Palerino had stepped forward, was the favourite son of the chief; and was beloved and highly respected by the whole tribe. The evening of the day that Palerino was to expiate his offence with his life, the two tribes collected together, and proceeded to Pannerong (signifying

ing the field of blood) where they spent the night in feasting and dancing; nor did the devoted victim appear as though the next morning was to be the last of his existence, but seemed as unconcerned and conducted himself with as much ease and cheerfulness as any of the company.

A little before sunrise the ceremony began, and forming themselves into a long square, Palerino, attended by two of his own tribe, deliberately and with a firm step walked to the centre, where he was met by Warenee, and his father, the chief, who took Palerino by the hand, and told him that as it was a single blow which occasioned the death of Oroodeo, unaccompanied by any other violence, they should consider it as an accident, and that too occasioned by the brutish and ill behaviour of the deceased;—that the custom of his being exposed to the spears of the relations must be complied with, but on account of the circumstances before set forth, it had been agreed that he should be indulged with a shield, when they should see whether he was as skilful in acting on the defensive, as he was bold and powerful in the attack—he then gave him his own shield, and withdrew on one side.

The throwing now began at forty paces distant; the agility and dexterity with which he avoided their aim was loudly extolled by the spectators; when an accident put an end to the contest and relieved Palerino from his dangerous situation; one of a different tribe being present, was very busy picking up and returning the spears, and being off his guard, was
killed

killed on the spot by a random spear—a general shout ensued, and the ceremony was ended, without Palerino receiving a single hurt;—the blood thus accidentally shed was considered as sufficient; although it was more than probable that whenever this tribe got intelligence of the event, it would occasion a more serious meeting.

Palerino was conducted home, amidst the caresses of both tribes, and the friendship which had for sometime subsisted between them was now strongly cemented, by the chief giving him his beautiful daughter, Oteniate, for his wife. The young folks had been no strangers to each other, and were mutually pleased.

The happy winding up of this tragical business was very gratifying to all the settlers hereabout; as Palerino was a great favorite, and always ready to oblige them; frequently as a guide, for three or four days together, so that his loss would have been much regretted.

Some settlers having arrived in transports were allotted a tract of land at the upper part of the harbour, and being free people, the spot was christened by the name of the Liberty Plains.

CHAP. XVII.

TWO Spanish ships, upon a voyage of discovery, came into the harbour, called the Discovery and the Intrepid, the former wore the broad pendant of a Commodore. They had been three years and a half from Europe, and had ran down the coast of South America, visiting all the Spanish possessions, and precisely ascertaining their boundaries, and situations, whereby they had gained much information.

An officer belonging to them having walked up to Paramatta, I had the honour of dining with him; he was of Irish extraction, and spoke English as his mother tongue; he was a well informed man, and his conversation eagerly listened to. The afternoon was spent with great hilarity, nor did we break up till near midnight, so much were the company charmed with the information, and pleasant manners of this accomplished stranger.

A depredation was discovered to have been made upon the stores, and was carried on in the following manner,—two convicts had been employed in issuing the provisions under the storekeeper: they had contrived usually to give an extra allowance to two or three messes, each mess consisting of six people, during the absence of the storekeeper, which often happened while they were serving; when one of each of the mess who were in the league
with

with those who served, took their allowance and hurried off with it;—on the return of the storekeeper the man serving out, called the messes over again which had been already served, and they received the second time their allowance, this plot was at last divulged by one of the wives of the party when she was in liquor.

On the examination of the parties it came out that this practice had been pursued for six months, and the different persons concerned being apprehended, were all severely punished by order of the Lieutenant Governor.

A quarrel happening at the hut of a female convict between Abraham Gordon and Richard Sutton; being both very much inflamed with liquor, Sutton was stabbed in the belly, and otherwise dangerously wounded; Gordon was instantly apprehended. Some people were also taken up at Paramatta on suspicion of nightly depredations, also of having killed one of the watchmen belonging to the settlement; the circumstances of which one of them had been overheard relating to a fellow convict; but after much investigation nothing could be brought home to them and they were accordingly discharged.

A soldier who had been sentenced three hundred lashes, on being led out to receive his punishment, attempted to cut his throat, and actually wounded himself pretty deeply under the ear with a knife. The punishment was put off till the evening, when he avowed that he was the person who killed the watchman, and that he would point out the spot where he had secreted

secreted the body—This not preventing him from receiving as much of the punishment as he could bear ; he afterwards declared that he knew nothing of the murder, and that he only accused himself merely in the hope of deferring his punishment.

Crimes now began to multiply fast upon our hands. On Saturday the 24th of May, a settler had been drinking at the house of Williams, with Rose Burk, a woman with whom he lived, until they were very much intoxicated, and as they were returning to his farm through the town of Paramatta, a violent quarrel arose between them ; when his musket went off by accident, and shattered the bones of her right arm below the elbow so dreadfully that instant amputation was necessary, which Mr. Arndel, the surgeon, being fortunately at home, directly performed.

The new grants since the departure of governor Philip amounted to nearly two thousand acres, one half of which lay between Sydney and Paramatta, it being the design of government to establish a range of farms so as to connect those settlements as much as possible, which was a most desirable object to the inhabitants of both.

A dangerous mutiny broke out among the sailors of the Kitty Transport,—the master had frequently complained of the disorderly conduct of his people, several of whom had been punished in consequence ; one in particular, Benjamin Williams, had received one hundred lashes.—This man had procured a gallon of rum from one of the convicts, whose term of transportation had expired, and had obtained
 O permission

permission to take his passage home in the Kitty. With this liquor they were carousing, and being noisy in their cups, disturbed the master, who instantly rose and went to the fore-castle, where he found them with a candle burning, stuck on the head of an oil cask, and the men in a state nearly bordering upon intoxication: he ordered them to put out the light and go to their hammocks, which they refused; Williams declaring that if he (the master) put it out it should be lit again—the master stepped forward to extinguish it himself, they immediately seized hold of him, and dragging him upon deck actually threw him overboard, before the mate, or any of the rest of the ship's company could come to his assistance. Fortunately he could swim very well, and the mate throwing him a rope over the quarter, he swam to it and got safely on board.

Notwithstanding this daring outrage the captain was disposed to pass it over, and would have inconsiderately put to sea next morning; but when he ordered them to hoist the top-sails, and prepare to get the ship under weigh, Williams stood forward, and declared that she should not be moved until their complement of hands was on board. The anchor, however, was got up with the assistance of the passengers, and colonists, who had a boat alongside, and she gradually dropped down the harbour.

In the interim the Governor being informed of those transactions, ordered a signal to be made for the Kitty to bring to, and immediately went on board, being determined by a striking example, not only to crush the present disorder, but

but to deter others from committing similar outrages. He ordered Williams and two others of the most refractory to be taken on shore, and replaced them with two convicts of exemplary character, and a seaman who had been discharged from the *Dædalus*: tranquillity and order being again restored, the ship braced about, and stood out to sea with a fair wind.

The mutineers on their landing were conducted to the parade, where they received, the reward which they richly deserved; Williams two hundred and fifty, and his companions, being less culpable, one hundred and fifty lashes each; after which they were delivered over to the care of an overseer, with strict injunctions that they should be made to earn the provisions which they consumed.

His Majesty's birth day was celebrated with the usual festivity—three vollies were fired by the regiment on the parade, and the Governor caused twelve of the largest hogs to be slaughtered, and divided among the people in the hospital and the convalescents.

Several attempts had been made to import cattle into this colony, but with very bad success: at this time there had been twelve bulls and upwards of a hundred cows lost on their passage—of all the cattle that were landed, two bulls, twenty cows, and two calves were only living at this period, (June, 1793.)—Horses, sheep, and hogs, were found to stand the rough weather, generally met in the passage from the Cape of Good Hope to this country, much better than the horned cattle.

It is now about three years since the colony experienced a very serious loss: A convict entrusted with the grazing, by a strange and unaccountable neglect, permitted two bulls and four cows to stray into the woods. He had been strictly enjoined never to lose sight of them; to this order he had paid little attention; he frequently left them and went home to his dinner; till at last on his return to the spot where he had left them, he found that they had quitted it; distracted with fear of the punishment that awaited him, he remained in the woods searching for them, till he was absolutely perishing with hunger, and was found in a most deplorable condition by one of the parties that had been sent out after him.

After a fruitless search for nearly a fortnight, all hopes of finding them were despaired of, and it was conjectured that they had been driven away by the natives: we were afterwards confirmed in this idea, as some of them declared that they had seen them killed, and offered to point out the spot where they had deposited the bones: the place they mentioned being a considerable distance off, the Governor declined any farther search. It was very probable that they had been destroyed:—if by chance they had escaped, and were yet living, their numbers might have been considerably increased.

The natives becoming very troublesome, lurking about the different farms, robbing and wounding the convicts whenever they met them without arms:—parties of the military were sent out to drive them from their haunts; yet, notwithstanding, many found means to continue

nue in the towns, and mix with the inhabitants—it was a common thing to see them coming into the town loaded with firewood, which they had been hired to procure, or bringing water from the tanks; for which service they thought themselves well paid with a worn-out jacket, trowsers, pieces of blanket, or a little bread, of which they were extravagantly fond.

As much inconvenience had been experienced from not having a church, divine service having been hitherto performed in the open air, exposed to the ardent rays of a scorching sun, the Rev. Mr. Johnston, himself, undertook to remove the evil.

Having fixed upon a spot, at the back of the huts, the building was begun under his own inspection. The front was seventy three feet, and the depth about forty; it was constructed with strong posts, interlaced with wattles, and filled up with plaister; the roof was thatched, not yet being able to afford tiles for so large a building. Great praise was due to the truly christian-like benevolence of our worthy pastor for his personal and unwearied exertions in the erection of this spacious edifice.

The convicts had never yet relaxed in their attendance on Sundays, but had not the conduct of the minister endeared himself to the convicts in general, it would not now have been practicable to enforce a full audience;—the solicitous attention he individually bestowed on the whole community continually crowded his new church.

A plot had lately been discovered which had for its end, the seizing and carrying off one of the long boats—the ringleaders of this business

ness were some soldiers, and their plan was to proceed to Java, a chart of which they had by some means or other procured; had they succeeded they would (to use a homely proverb, have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire; for the Dutch are too jealous of strangers to give them any encouragement, so that in all probability they would have been reduced to the alternative, either of enlisting into their service, a sure and certain method of shortening their days in that premature grave of Europeans, or being kept prisoners till some English ship should touch there to take them off.

Two of the soldiers were immediately put into confinement; and in the night two others absconded into the woods with their arms and all the ammunition they could collect; the two in confinement were brought to a court martial, one of whom was acquitted; but a drummer, named Roberts, for endeavouring to persuade another drummer to be of the party, was sentenced to receive three hundred lashes.

The parties who had been sent after the run-aways, by dividing themselves, soon found out their haunt; they were taken without opposition, and escorted back to the settlement, and a few days afterwards they underwent a similar sentence with Roberts.

Some persons had been displaying their ingenuity in the fabricating of counterfeit dollars, and many were in circulation, two of which among others, I was unlucky enough to get for some stock which I had taken down to Sydney to dispose of. They were ably executed, and notwith-

notwithstanding a handsome reward was promised to the informer, and a strict search after the manufacturer, he remained undiscovered.

About this time a transport from Ireland arrived, with one hundred and fifty convicts of that country, male and female; a party of the New South Wales Corps had embarked with them, and it proved a very salutary precaution; as the spirit of mutiny soon broke out, and they had the hardihood to attempt taking the ship, but were happily frustrated by the vigilance, spirit, and activity of the master and officers.

Representations having been made to government that the masters of the transports did not take proper care of the health of the convicts, when in their charge, they entered into an agreement to pay the contractors five pounds in addition for every convict that they should land in a healthy state at the settlement. The propriety, and salutary effects of this arrangement, were fully evinced, by the appearance of those lately landed;—each were allowed a hammock and bed to themselves during the passage, and a new suit of clothes to land in;—they unanimously gave testimony to the good treatment they had met with by three cheers to the Captain on going from alongside the ship.

CHAP. XVIII.

WE now heard of the agitated state of Europe, and of the war having commenced with the French, and that administration had made arrangements for our being supplied with cattle from the East Indies, fearing that in a state of warfare our supplies might be cut off by the enemy; this precaution gave great satisfaction to the settlement at large, for the Bengal sheep, though small, were very productive, breeding twice in the year, and mostly bringing two lambs at a time. An instance of the remarkable fecundity of a goat happened in the house of one of the superintendants at Sydney, she produced five kids, all of which died from a blow she received while in kid: seven months afterwards she gave birth to four, all of which lived; she was the most beautiful animal I ever saw.

A ship being about to sail for England, seven persons whose term of transportation had expired, were permitted to embark themselves; — Passages to Europe from hence were procured with the greatest facility (little more being required than permission to receive them, and the finding their provisions,) yet it was frequently the case that convicts secreted themselves on board without leave, as was the case in this ship; (the Sugar Cane) for the day she sailed two were sent back who had not obtained their certificate, for which they were punished with fifty lashes each.

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The new South Wales Corps was now augmented; thirty recruits, who had been selected from among the convicts, bearing good characters, and having been formerly soldiers, were permitted to enlist; they behaved as well as any of the corps, one of them only excepted, who was for misbehaviour afterwards discharged, and reduced to his former situation. A reinforcement of twenty three more was added, which made up the full complement of convicts that was intended to be admitted into the corps. The condition of enlisting was that of their serving in the regiment till regularly discharged.

Many irregularities and robberies being frequently committed in and about Paramatta, my post as peace officer became very troublesome; being obliged to be ever on the watch to suppress disorders, and apprehend all suspicious and straggling persons who could not render a good account of themselves.—On the 15th of October, four people broke into the house of John Randall, one of the settlers, within a hundred paces from my house, and nearly murdered two men who lived with him.—The hands and faces of these plunderers were blackened to avoid detection, and they observed the strictest silence while they were in the hut that their voices might not betray them, they were prevented from robbing the premises by the spirited resistance they met with. The Irish convicts, who had taken to the woods, were soon apprehended; they confessed that they had formed a plan to rob the mill-house, the governor's, and several others, and that they

they were to be visited from time to time in their concealment, by their associates in the town, who were to supply them with provisions, and such information as was necessary for their safety, they also acknowledged that the attack on Randal's house was committed by them and their associates.

Soon after this the house of Mr. Atkins, notwithstanding the sharpest look out, was broke open, and plundered of a large quantity of provisions; and a quarter cask of wine was taken from the store, but left in the garden on their being disturbed; they however carried off a large booty.

A severe storm of rain and thunder happened on Saturday the 26th of October, 1793; two convicts, Denis Reardon, and William Meredith, who were employed in cutting wood just without the town, ran to a tree for shelter in the beginning of the storm, where they were found next morning lying dead with a dog that had followed them. There was little doubt but the shelter which they had sought had proved their destruction, and that they had been struck dead by the lightning, as the flashes were observed to have been very vivid, and hovering over the tree where they were found; the pupils of their eyes appeared much injured, and their tongues were forced out between their teeth; their faces were discoloured, as were also several parts of their bodies; the tree was stripped of its bark from top to bottom, and some of its branches were torn off. This was the first accident of the kind that had occurred in the colony, though lightning more ardent
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and alarming had often appeared, and storms of a much longer duration.

Williams the settler, whom I before had occasion to mention, wearied of being in a state of independence, sold his farm with the house, crop and stock, for a little less than 100*l*. to an officer whose ground was contiguous; another settler, anxious to return to England, followed his example; in consequence they had to seek employment from others till an opportunity occurred of their getting a passage home.

A convict of the name of Crow fell in my way as I was out on the patrol, against whom there were several charges; I accordingly apprehended him, and saw him safely lodged in the military guard-house at Paramatta, from which, however, he found means to escape, and, rambling down to Sydney Cove, swam off to a transport in the harbour, the master of which immediately took him on shore—he received a slight punishment and was put in the black-hole at Sydney, out of which he also effected his liberation, by untiling a part of the roof of his prison, and was not heard of for some time; when he again fell in my way, between Paramatta and Toongabbe, where he had been committing fresh depredations, having actually broken open two houses, and taken considerable property, some of which was now found upon him.

The frequent commission of capital offences had rendered it necessary to inflict punishment more likely to prevent the perpetration of crimes than a mere flogging;—Crow was therefore delivered

delivered over to the civil power, and ordered to be tried by the criminal court of Judicature. —He was accordingly tried on the 2d of December, and being clearly convicted, sentence of death was passed upon him—two others were tried with him, but they were acquitted, for want of sufficient evidence although the whole court were fully assured of their guilt.

Crow was ordered for immediate execution, but petitioning for a respite it was granted him till the tenth, when he justly forfeited his life, as an atonement for the depredations he had committed on society. Just before he suffered he had nearly effected his escape a third time—with much labour and ingenuity he had displaced some bricks from the wall, covering the interstices so neatly that they were scarcely perceptible: being discovered, by the vigilant eye of the centinel: he next attempted the necessary, but not succeeding there, his spirits failed him, and he exhibited more weakness and dismay at the place of execution than was expected from such a determined character.

CHAP. XIX.

MANY officers now began to avail themselves of the permission which had been granted them of cultivating land; several of them fixed at Paramatta and its neighbourhood, whereby I gained a most valuable acquisition in the friendship and acquaintance of several gentlemen, who passing over the shade of my past life, deigned to make me their companion, and I flatter myself my future conduct shall never put them to the blush for their condescension.

They commenced their occupation of farmers in the highest spirits—Tools and implements for husbandry were furnished by government, and they were allowed the labour of ten convicts each, by which they made great progress: also by the hire of extra hands on those days that they were not employed for the public; and as they were not restrained from paying them in liquors, they easily obtained as many gangs as they could employ.

The passion for liquor still predominated over every other consideration, there being nothing which they would not risk to obtain it: and while spirits were to be had, they would take no other article in pay for their labour, and which were now sold so high as six shillings a bottle.—A settler near Paramatta having procured a small still from England, obtained a deleterious and mischievous spirit from his wheat, which he found more profitable than

carrying it to the public store, and selling it for ten shillings per bushel. From one bushel of wheat he extracted nearly five quarts of spirits, which he sold, or paid for labour, at the rate of five and six shillings a bottle: hence proceeded the shocking immorality now visible in the convicts, hence the frequent robberies, and disorders in the settlements, and their total disregard to all decency and neglect of divine worship—formerly the worthy pastor had an audience of two or three hundred; but now, on Christmas-day, he preached to about thirty persons, and the evening produced a watch house full of prisoners; the greater part in a state of intoxication.

Mr. M'Donald, a settler at the field of Mars—a settlement so called from its being first occupied by men discharged from the marines—made a different use of the produce of his farm. Having a mill he ground and dressed his wheat, which he sold to a baker at Sydney for fourpence the pound; one bushel of wheat producing forty-four pounds of flour—He also killed a weather sheep, produced from some that had been given him by governor Philip, and sold it at two shillings per pound, the quarters weighing about fifteen pounds. Sydney town had considerably increased since the departure of governor Philip, not less than one hundred and sixty huts and five barracks having been added; some of the huts were large and commodious, and to each of them fifteen hundred bricks were allowed for a chimney and floor, each hut was twenty-six feet in front, and fourteen in width, and were divided into apartments for

for ten convicts, a proportionate spot of garden-ground was reserved for each building.

About Christmas a large party of the natives attacked some settlers who were returning from Paramatta to Toongabbe, and took from them the provisions which they had just received from the store—They instantly made off into the woods; and though they were immediately pursued, we could not overtake them. They were of the hunter or woodman's tribe, who were seldom among us, and consequently very little known. The natives who lived about Sydney placed the utmost confidence in us, choosing a cleared spot near the town for the performance of their rites and ceremonies, and for three successive evenings the town had been amused with one of their spectacles which might very properly be termed a tragic comedy; for, though some blood was shed, no lives were lost. It is the custom as before observed with respect to Palerino, that the person who was the cause of another's death, was compelled to meet the relations of the deceased, who were to avenge the death by throwing spears and drawing blood for blood.—A native of the tribe of Cammerray, a very fine fellow named Carradah, who had stabbed another in the night, but not mortally, was obliged to make the *amende honourable*, by standing two evenings exposed to the spearing of the relations of the wounded man. He was indulged with a bark shield, and defended himself with great skill and resolution and the first day ended without his receiving a single wound. But on the next evening, after having exhausted the patience of his opponent,

ponents, and remaining unhurt, the wounded man walked up very composedly to Carradah, who suffered him to pin his arm to his side with his spear, without the least resistance; prevented, very probably, by the threatening and uplifted spears of the other natives, who could easily have destroyed him, by throwing at him in different directions. Carradah stood for some time after this defending himself, although wounded in the arm which held the shield, until his adversaries had not a spear left, and they retired to gather up the fragments of the broken spears. The business was resumed when they had repaired their weapons, it then appeared a battle royal, men women, and children mingled in it, in the course of which many severe wounds were given and received ere night ended the warfare. We never could account for this extraordinary contest; for the utmost cordiality and friendship subsisted between the different parties who fought each other with all the fury of the most implacable enemies, and those worsted in the conflict, spoke of their opponents as brave men, and their friends.

The wounds of the combatants were soon healed, and it was understood that Carradah had yet another trial to sustain from some of the natives who had been prevented by absence from joining in the ceremonies of that evening. Carradah was very intimate in the town, and had changed names with Mr. Ball, who commanded the Supply, he went after by that name which the natives pronounced Midjer Bool.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

A NOTHER barrack was now building at Sydney, but for want of the tiles was not finished ; two mill-wrights had also got up the frames and roofs of two mill-houses, and while they were waiting for the tiles endeavoured to forward the wood-work ; the great want of tiles proceeded from there being only one person who understood the moulding them, and he never could burn more than five thousand in a week, being obliged to burn a great number of bricks in the same kilns. It required near seventy thousand bricks to complete the building of one barrack, and twenty thousand tiles to cover it in.—To furnish bricks for these barracks and other buildings, three gangs were constantly at work, which comprised three overseers and eighty convicts—The distance from the brick-fields to the barracks was about three quarters of a mile, three brick carts were employed conveying these materials, each drawn by twelve men, under the direction of an overseer---seven hundred tiles, or three hundred and fifty bricks were a load ; and every cart was expected to make five turns in the day. The bringing in of the timber was also a laborious work ; there were four carriages employed, each drawn by twenty-four men, exclusive of sawyers, carpenters, smiths, painters, glaziers, and stone-masons ; the provisioning and clothing

ing all these people must be very considerable, and will be found to amount to an enormous sum when the expences of the public works erected in this colony come to be calculated.

On the 5th of January, 1794, a most atrocious murder was committed on the body of John Lewis, an elderly man, who was employed to graze the cattle of Paramatta. The beasts having lost their conductor, remained all night in the woods; they were found next morning, but no tidings of Lewis could be got, which caused it to be apprehended that some accident had happened him. It was some days before his body was found, and was at last pointed out by the snoring and uneasiness of the cattle when they came to the particular spot; having been drove out on purpose by way of experiment. It was lying in a ravine, into which it had been thrown by the murderers, who had covered it with logs, branches of trees and grass. Some native dogs allured by the scent of blood had already been mangling the carcase, which added to the horrible spectacle it exhibited.

The unfortunate man had imprudently boasted of being worth a sum of money, and that he always carried it about him, sewed up in his clothes, in case his hut should be robbed during his absence. By the number of wounds he had received, he must have defended himself stoutly, and was certainly overpowered by numbers, being a stout muscular man; ---to discover, if possible, the murderers, several bad characters were apprehended and examined, but nothing transpired that could attach

each to any of them, and the enquiry dropped, with an expectation that the perpetrators would sooner or later be brought to punishment, and that some riot or disagreement among themselves would furnish a clue, that would infallibly lead to detection.

The pernicious vice of gaming, which had rapidly encreased in the settlements, and which was carried on to such excess among the convicts, that many had been known, after losing their provisions, money, and spare clothing, to bet, and lose the very clothes from their racks, exhibiting themselves as naked, and as indifferent about it, as the natives of the country.-- Money was their principal object; for with it they could purchase spirits, which they greedily coveted. They have frequently been seen playing at their favourite games of cribbage and all-fours, for ten dollars a game, and those who were ignorant of those games would be content to toss up for dollars, instead of halfpence. Their meetings were scenes of quarrelling, swearing, and every wickedness that might be expected by a description of people totally destitute of the least particle of shame; but glorying in their depravity. To this dreadful vice in a great measure may be attributed most of the crimes that existed in the colony.

It was found that the settlers, notwithstanding the plentiful crops which they generally gathered, gave no assistance to government, by sending it into store, for which (as before observed) they were allowed ten shillings per bushel, a very small quantity has been sent in, and totally
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ly inadequate to their wants and expectations. They seemed ungratefully to prefer any other mode, than what in justice or gratitude they ought to have pursued; some by clandestinely brewing and distilling it, others by paying debts contracted by gambling, as even the farms themselves, were sometimes staked, and lost at a game of hazard.

In this month (January) another division of settlers was added.---Williams and Rouse having squandered away the money for which they had sold their farms, were permitted, with some others, to settle on the banks of the Hawkesbury, about 24 miles from Paramatta. They pitched upon a spot desirably situated with respect to the water, and where it did not require much labour to clear it;---they began with great alacrity and spirit, and formed very sanguine hopes of success. At the end of the month they had cleared several acres, and were in great forwardness with their huts, nor were they in the least interrupted by the natives---not so in this neighbourhood, where it might be supposed that they would have expected such resistance as they would not have chose to encounter. However, be that as it may, several settlers about Paramatta had been attacked by armed parties, and robbed of their clothing and provisions. Many reports of this kind had been brought into the town, perhaps some of them might have been fabricated, to conceal the effects of their gambling.---Notwithstanding it was clearly apparent that these people were ever on the watch, and it was observed that

that as the corn ripened they constantly approached nearer the farms and the public grounds, for the purpose of depredation.

William Crozier Cook, having rendered himself obnoxious to the law, had absconded into the woods, where not being able to grind the wheat he had stolen from the store he ate it unground, which upon drinking a quantity of water fermented in his bowels, and caused a mortification, and notwithstanding, (on his being obliged from the excessive torments he endured to crawl into the town) the most efficacious medicines were administered he soon after expired.

In the beginning of February two watches which had been missing were discovered, and taken down to Sydney. Upon investigation it appeared they had been stolen by John Bevan, who at the time he had broken out of the prison hut of Toongabba, a settlement near Parramatta, and getting down to Sydney committed the theft in conjunction with Sutton, who had been before tried for a similar offence; he had returned with the spoil to his hut, before he had been missed by any of the watchmen.---Playing at cards sometime afterwards with other convicts, he exchanged the watches for a nankeen jacket and trowsers.---From this they went from one to the other till at length they were found in the possession of one Batty, in the thatch of whose house they were discovered, together with ten dollars, which were supposed to be part of the money of a man who had been robbed in the hospital, with whom Bevan had been intimate, and had won from him an

hundred weight of flour which he had almost starved himself to hoard up--he also inveigled him out of the secret of his having money, and all the particulars that was necessary to his design of stealing it.

This information was gained from the people through whose hands the watches had passed; but it being unsupported by any corroborating evidence, the court though thoroughly convinced of his guilt, was under the necessity of giving him an acquittal—Batty and another man, Normanton, whose guilt was sufficiently proved, received each a severe punishment.

CHAP. XXI

IN the foregoing part I promised to transmit an account of the rise and progress of the colony at Norfolk Island, but have hitherto been prevented, by the delay occasioned from Mr. Wentworth being so fully occupied that he had not leisure to write me the particulars at once, however, from our correspondence I hope I shall be able to collect a narrative which I presume will not be uninteresting to the reader.

Governor Philips, previous to his leaving England, had received orders to establish a colony at Norfolk Island as soon as possible after his arrival in New South Wales; and to shew that no time was lost, he dispatched lieutenant King, of the Sirius, in the Supply, tender, the middle of February, (not more than a month after his arrival in the country) investing him with the offices of superintendant and commandant of the settlement. Mr. King, previous to his departure for his little government, was sworn in as a justice of the peace, which enabled him to punish such petty offences as might be committed among his people---capital crimes being referred for the cognizance of the criminal court of judicature, established at Sydney.

Lieutenant King took with him one surgeon, one petty officer, (Mr. Cunningham) two privates,

vates, two persons who pretended to have some knowledge of flax dressing, nine male, and six female convicts, with provisions for six months.

Norfolk Island is situated in 29 degrees south latitude and 168 degrees east longitude, and was settled with a view to the cultivation of the flax plant, which at the time it was discovered by captain Cook was found in great abundance, and from specimens taken to England of the New Zealand flax, which is of the same kind as that at Norfolk Island, it was hoped that the mother-country might derive great advantage from its cultivation.

The Supply arrived at the Island on the 29th of February, 1788, but it was five days before any landing could be effected, occasioned by a surf breaking violently over a reef of rocks, which crossed the principal bay. Their patience was nearly exhausted, and it was almost determined to return; judging that a spot so difficult of access was not the most desirable for a new settlement; when upon standing in a little nearer the shore a small opening was perceptible in the reef, wide enough to admit a boat, through which he and his people landed with all their provisions and stores in perfect safety.

When landed, they found themselves in an impenetrable wilderness, and could not discover a clear spot, sufficient to pitch a tent, so that all hands were immediately set to work in order to clear the ground for the new settlement, which Mr. King named Sydney-Bay; he had also become sponsor to two small islands in the vicinity,

vicinity, one of which he named Philip, after the Governor, and the other Nepean, in compliment to the present Secretary to the admiralty.

In the month of August a transport arrived from Port Jackson, having on board a midshipman and two seamen, of the Sirius, a serjeant, corporal and a party of marines, also some free settlers with their families. The utmost regularity and industry were observed throughout the settlement for a whole year: when the following plan of an insurrection among the convicts was discovered---they were to commence their operations by the seizure of Mr. King, which was intended to be effected on the first Saturday after the arrival of any ship in the bay, except the Sirius. Saturday was the day pitched upon, it being generally the custom of Mr. King on that day to visit a farm he had established a small distance from the settlement. He was accordingly to be surprised and secured in his way to the farm. A message was then to be sent, in his name, to Mr. Jameison, the surgeon, to come immediately to the farm, when he was to be secured directly on his entering the woods;---the serjeant and party were to be treated in the same manner. These being properly taken care of, a signal was to be made to the vessel in the bay to send her boat on shore, the crew of which were to be made prisoners on their landing; when two or three of the revolvers were to go off in a boat belonging to the island, and inform the commanding officer that the ship's boat had been stove on the beach, and that the commandant requested that another might be

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sent on shore ; this was to be captured, and then the ship was to be boarded and taken, with which they were to proceed to Otaheite. We must do them the justice to acknowledge that they meant to leave some provisions for the commandant and his officers---This was their scheme, not one difficulty in the execution whereof had ever occurred to their imagination, and they took it for granted that all was to succeed as easily as they had planned it ; and had it not happened to be revealed by a female convict, to Mr. King's gardener, with whom she cohabited, there is no doubt but that this inconsistent plan would have been put in execution. Upon the discovery of their villainous intentions every possible precaution was taken to defeat them. The first step was to clear the ground round the settlement to such a distance, that the woods should not conceal any preparations for a future attempt.

On the 26th of February they were visited by a hurricane in which several pine trees from one hundred and eighty, to two hundred feet, in length, and from twenty to thirty in the girth, were blown down ; and by noon the gale increased to such violence that pines and oaks were borne down by the fury of the tempest ; which tearing up trees and rocks with them, left chasms of eight and ten feet deep in the earth : those trees that were not torn up by the roots bent till they nearly swept the ground with their tops : a large oak was blown on the granary, which crushed it to pieces, with a number of casks of flour---and nothing but horror and desolation presented itself.

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By the activity of the free people and officers the flour, Indian corn, and stores were collected and removed to the commandant's house---a greater number of trees were blown down than could have been felled by fifty men in a month's labour. In the progress of the storm, the whole of the bay and great part of the settlement was covered with water, and the gardens, public and private, were totally destroyed. The island had lately received an increase of inhabitants, so that at this time they mustered sixteen free people; fifty-one male, and twenty-three female convicts with four children, who were all in exceeding good health; a certain sign of the goodness of the climate.---For the defence of the island, the free people formed a militia, and a guard was mounted every night. The colony still increasing in numbers, it was thought necessary that they should have an additional military force, accordingly in the month of June, Lieut. Cresswell, of the marines, and fourteen privates arrived from New South Wales.

The greatest assiduity had been used in repairing the ravages of the hurricane, and by the month of August the country not only assumed its former cheerful appearance, but twenty acres of ground had been cleared and sown on the public account---a store-house was now erected capable of containing a large quantity of stores, and a road cut across the island to Cascade Bay.

The pine trees which were expected to have been a most valuable acquisition for masts and yards of large ships, were found wholly unfit for the purpose; and no use could be yet made

of the flax, owing to the ignorance of the people who had come out as professed flax dressers. However the affairs of the colonists were in the most thriving state, and the harvest had returned more than twenty fold, though they had experienced much dry weather. After the harvest all the spare hands were employed in palisading a piece of ground two hundred feet, by one hundred and fifty, encircling the house of the commandant, the public stores, and a military barrack.—This precaution was very highly necessary to guard against a surprize, should any further attempts be made by the villainous and disaffected, many of which description were now on the island.

In the beginning of the year 1790, governor Philip became uneasy at the non-arrival of supplies from England, as the provisions in store, at half-allowance to each man in the colony, would not hold out above four months. They had on their landing a sufficient stock for two years; that time was now elapsed, and had it not been for the great care and economy of the governor, the whole colony must have perished with hunger.

Towards the end of February, a vessel arriving, his excellency judged it absolutely necessary to divide the settlement: he accordingly ordered captain Hunter to prepare the Sirius for sea, and to take on board a number of marines and convicts, and proceed with them to Norfolk Island where there were many resources which they had not at Port Jackson.

The Sirius was soon ready, and on the 6th of March she weighed anchor, having on board major Ross, the Lieutenant-Governor, one company

company of marines and officers, and one hundred and eighty-six convicts, with a proportion of the remaining provisions, and other stores — The Supply, tender, commanded by lieutenant Ball, also took a company of marines, and twenty convicts.

After a week's sail, they arrived at Norfolk Island, and sailing nearly round it, they at last found a spot on which the captain judged that he should be able to land his passengers in safety, the island being almost entirely begirt with a shoal, or reef of sunken rocks, which caused a heavy surf on the least fresh of wind. The debarkation took place on a rock which projects some distance into the sea, and continued for two days; no sooner had the last boat load landed, than the wind shifted, and set right on the shore: as it began to blow very strong, the ship was obliged to stand out to sea, leaving nearly three hundred people on shore without a possibility of landing any of the provisions or stores. This circumstance alarmed the new settlers, and the more so, as the weather grew so hazy that they soon lost sight of the ship; however, the next morning the Supply came to anchor in the bay, but the greater part of the provisions and stores being in the Sirius, their apprehensions on her score were encreased. In this state of uncertainty they remained for four days, when to their great satisfaction at day break on the 20th of March they perceived her working into the bay. She soon after brought to, hoisted out the boats which were loaded with provisions and dispatched on shore.

The ship falling very fast to leeward, captain Hunter thought it expedient to make sail, but the reef of funken rocks, extended farther than was imagined, which was now visible; as the sea began to rise the surf broke over them a considerable way out, so that it was not possible for the Sirius to weather it: upon which when they were sufficiently near they attempted to tack, but missed stays and fell off again; they were now obliged to wear her round in as small a space as possible, which was done, and they got under the same sail as before. The ship continuing to fall to leeward, shoaling her water, and being baulked a second time in her attempt to tack, her anchor was let go, but before the cable brought her up, she struck upon the reef; in a few minutes after she bulged, and the water flowed into the hold.

The masts were now cut away in order to lighten her, so that there might be a chance of her swinging over the reef in-shore, whereby the lives of those on board might be saved, which was effected in the course of the day, by means of a hawser, which was floated to the shore by a cask, and made fast to a tree.

CHAP. XXII.

THE preservation of the stores and provisions was their next concern, and as the sea continued turbulent and the weather tempestuous their former fears of starving returned; there being now upon that small island (five miles in length and three in breadth) no fewer than five hundred souls upon half-allowance of provisions, and that for a very short time, as the chief part was still in a very perilous state.—The severe weather subsiding, they had several very fine days, during which all hands were employed in getting out the provisions and stores. By great exertions, from twenty to thirty casks of provisions were brought from the wreck every day, with various other articles of public and private property; such things as would swim were thrown into the sea to take their chance of being waisted on shore by the surf, and guards were placed on the beach to prevent their being stolen by the convicts: and every thing that was washed ashore was placed under the charge of the centinels until claimed by the proprietor.

Two of the convicts offered their services to bring on shore what live hogs they could save, but unfortunately they could not withstand the temptation of the spirit-room, in proceeding to which, they set the ship on fire in two places, which being perceived from the shore, a young man named Ascott, a convict, gallantly plunged

ed into the surf, gained the wreck, extinguished the fire and forced the wretches out of the ship.

Before the ship could be cleared, the weather became unfavourable, and the high surf rendered it unsafe for any person to go on board—till at length a very heavy sea raised her bodily, and shifted her birth a cable's length nearer in-shore, so that it was much easier and safer to send on board, and the greater part of the cargo was safely landed: before we entirely gave her up, we landed even the guns, and all her ordnance stores.

The lieutenant governor now called a council of all the naval and military officers, when it was determined that martial law should be proclaimed—that all private stock, poultry excepted, should be considered as the property of the state—that justice should be administered by a court martial, to be composed of seven officers, five of whom were to concur in a sentence of death; and that there should be two keys upon the door of the public store, whereof one was to be in the keeping of a person appointed by captain Hunter, in behalf of the seamen, the other by a person in behalf of the military. The day following the troops, seamen and convicts, being assembled, these resolutions were publickly read, and the whole confirmed their engagement of abiding by them, by passing under his majesty's flag, which was displayed on a convenient spot, and every person passed under it, bowing as they passed (which they were given to understand signified their assent;) this ceremony was performed with proper solemnity and great cheerfulness.—Hitherto every criminal, amenable to trial, was
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to be sent to Port Jackson, with all the necessary evidence, and there tried, which had been attended with great inconveniences. Mr. King was dispatched in the Supply, to Port Jackson, with news of the loss of the Sirius, and to entreat that immediate relief might be sent, as the provisions were so very scanty, that the following short weekly allowance was obliged to be resorted to; viz. three pounds of pork, and one pound of rice.

Observing great quantities of birds hovering over a hill which had been christened Mount Pitt, it was conjectured that they might draw some support from thence; accordingly some persons were sent to examine it.—They found it perforated like a rabbit-warren, and full of nests; towards the evening such flocks came in from the sea that the numbers were incredible; the people made small fires which attracting their attention they dropped on the ground, and they killed as many as they pleased. When they are upon the ground they cannot raise themselves, owing to the length of their wings, and until they gain an eminence they cannot take to flight:—for this purpose nature has provided them with a sharp spur and a strong hawk's bill, with this assistance they have been seen to climb up a crooked tree sufficiently high to throw themselves on the wing—they are about the size of a pigeon, web-footed, and of a dun colour; they lay but a single egg, but that is full as large as a duck's—the flesh is like that of a puffin, rather fishy; and although they killed between two and three thousand

thousand every night, they could perceive no diminution in their numbers.

More than six months passed ere any succours arrived from Port Jackson, and the people in general were very much reduced in bodily strength for want of food; when two ships arrived with provisions and a fresh reinforcement of convicts—these supplies were extremely providential, as their greatest resource, Mount Pitt, began to fail in the quantity of birds, and the fishing had entirely ceased.

It was at this time that Mr. Wentworth arrived, and was particularly noticed by Major Ross, who on account of his abilities and reputation immediately appointed him as a superintending surgeon of the Island.

During the residence of captain Hunter and the crew of the Sirius, he had employed them in blowing up some rocks which obstructed the passage through the reef; their efforts had been attended with great success; correct surveys had also been made by lieutenant Bradley, so that a landing was now effected in any weather. The Lieutenant-Governor had caused near two hundred acres of land to be cleared, having had great success in the first crops of maize and wheat.—Two pieces of coarse canvass were manufactured and sent as a specimen to governor Philip.

Martial law being discontinued, some prisoners for capital offences were sent to New South Wales to be tried, but for want of sufficient evidence they were acquitted—much inconvenience was experienced from this mode—as all the witnesses were obliged to be embarked to attend the trial.---In this case the prosecutor

tor was a settler, and being obliged to leave his farm for a time, his business of course was suspended till his return, and his whole concerns went to ruin---one of the witnesses also was nearly in the same predicament. But as the courts here will always be the superior courts, it will not be easily remedied.

Captain Hunter, his officers and men took their passage to Port Jackson, after sharing the fatigues and anxieties of the settlers for the space of eleven months, leaving the island in a comparative state of plenty.

Soon after Captain King, now promoted to the rank of a master and commander; also appointed lieutenant governor of the settlement, arrived with his family in the Atlantic transport and relieved major Ross, who returned to New South Wales, with his detachment, on board the Queen.

The frequent visitation to Mount Pitt had greatly thinned the number of the birds; more owing to the thoughtless wantonness of the convicts than the quantity killed; for they not only destroyed the bird, its young and the egg, but the whole in which it burrowed, and from which they had the most positive orders to refrain; as nothing was more likely to make them forsake the island.

The governor having discovered that the island abounded in lime stones, built a handsome and convenient house for himself, with store-houses, barracks for the soldiery, and other public buildings: he also persevered with respect to the flax-plant, and agreed with the master of a transport to procure him two of the natives of New Zealand, who made good
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canvass from it in their country ; for which service he was to give him one hundred pounds. Two of them were accordingly prevailed on to venture to Norfolk Island, where they resided near a twelvemonth ; and having given such instructions as enabled the colonists to manufacture it tolerably well, began to evince a hankering after their own country ; the governor therefore was resolved by the first opportunity to gratify their wishes ; and that he might be sure that they did not experience any neglect or ill usage determined to accompany them himself—He accordingly embarked on board the *Britannia*, and in a few days restored them to their native country and their friends.

A jealousy had subsisted for some time between the soldiery, the free men, and others of the settlers ; frequent sparings and acts of violence had taken place, till at length on the 18th of January, 1704, it broke out in an open warfare, in a place which the governor had permitted the convicts to perform plays, after their working hours. He being present immediately ordered one of the soldiers to be put under an arrest. As soon as the play was finished, the rest of the soldiers in a body repaired to their own commanding officer ; and boldly demanded the release of their comrade. On his refusing their request, they signified that they would release him themselves, upon which the officer spiritedly remonstrated with them, and they dispersed. They made no movement towards putting their threats in execution, nevertheless when their conduct was reported to the governor, he convened all the officers together,

together, and laid before them what he had heard; also an account of a determination among the soldiers to release from the halberts any of their comrades, who should be ordered punishment for any injury or offence done to a settler: all of which had been ratified with an oath.—He then pointed out the necessity of punishing the delinquents, which was effected in the following manner:

On the next day the detachment was sent from their quarters in parties upon different duties, unarmed, when the marines, and settlers who were of the late militia took their arms. On their return twenty of them were selected as ringleaders, ten of whom were sent to Port Jackson in irons to be tried for mutiny, the other ten received punishment on the island; others were confined for a short time, when the rest returning cheerfully to their duty the affair blew over, and things went on as tranquilly as before.

All remembrances of former scarcity began now to be done away, and upwards of fifty thousand bushels of maize, might have been sent to Port Jackson, had the lieutenant governor thought proper to fall in with the proposals of Mr. King—His harvests had been extremely productive, and he had purchased from the settlers the surplus of their first crops;—bill for the amount of which he drew upon government in favour of the respective owners;—but as they required to be approved by the lieutenant governor, they were sent to Port Jackson for that purpose—There being at this juncture a tolerable supply of grain in the settlement, the lieutenant governor did not think

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it prudent to put the crown to so great an expence (nearly four thousand pounds sterling) therefore declined accepting the bills.

Mr. King had been fully warranted in this procedure not only by the idea that the corn would be acceptable, but that it was one of the express conditions on which the settlers had received their respective allotments, under the regulations of governor Philip; which was, that the overplus grain and stock should be purchased from them at a fair market price; this circumstance gave great discontent among the settlers, many of whom gave up their farms, and went to Port Jackson.

The ground cleared now, comprised near six thousand acres, about one half of the island, and the greater part was in high cultivation in 1794 and 1795, and produced upwards of forty thousand bushels of grain; but from the impolitic check given to private industry as before mentioned, the quantity gradually decreased to nearly one half—the ground thus neglected became over run with strong thick weeds, which gave harbour to the numerous rats with which the island abounds, besides the injury done to the soil, which was much to be lamented; however, it is much to be hoped that—as thro' the humane interference of governor Hunter, the corn bills are now paid, and a notification that all the surplus grain would be purchased in future by government—the industrious disposition of the settlers will again revive.

The inhabitant of the island are divided into six classes, first, the civil and the military—second, settlers by grant, or lease, freemen hired, and convicts taken off the stores by officers;

cers ; the third class consists of convicts allowed to officers as servants, overseers, and artificers' watchmen. Those employed in husbandry for the public, and other incidental work, compose the fourth class ; The fifth and sixth comprise the women and children.

There were two schools ;---one for young children who were instructed by a very decent woman :---the other kept by a man, who taught reading, writing and arithmetic, for which he was well qualified, and was very attentive : another institution was added for the reception of orphans. It was unfortunate that these as well as the other children were destitute of every article of cloathing, except such as the store afforded, which was not at all calculated for them in that warm climate. In order to support these institutions a subscription was raised among the officers, and fines were imposed in lieu of other punishments for breaches of the peace, &c. all of which were applied to that purpose.

The state of the flax-manufactory is not such as to boast of, being in great want of tools ; they have but one loom, and the only cloth they at present make is a canvas, something finer than No. 7---which is equally strong and durable with that made of European flax.

Before the arrival of the two New Zealanders no progress had been made in this manufacture, and it was with great difficulty they could be persuaded to give any information respecting it, and indeed as the work is generally performed in New Zealand by the women, they were not competent to give the fullest in-

instruction : sufficient however was obtained to proceed thus far, and since their departure such women as could be spared from other work, about twelve in number, had been employed in preparing the flax, and a flax-dresser, weaver, and three assistants, in manufacturing it into canvas, rope, &c.

The convicts are employed according to their respective trades, and work from day-light till eight o'clock,---from nine till noon, and from two in the afternoon till sun-set. On Fridays and Saturdays they are allowed to work for themselves, or whoever chuses to hire them ; they are also indulged by government with the loan of tools and materials. Husbandmen and labourers work from day-light till one o'clock, and have the rest of the day to themselves, which is found to be more eligible than letting them break off to their meals.

The price of labour for a convict is from five to six pounds per annum.---A freeman, clothed and victualled, twelve pounds.---A day's-work for a labourer is three shillings, allowing him provisions, otherwise five---clearing an acre of wood, two pounds, an acre of weeds, thirty shillings---threshing of wheat, twenty pence the bushel---other work is done in proportion---the mode of payment for which, is according to the circumstances of the employer ; in stock, grain, European articles, and sometimes, though very rarely, in cash,---provisions at the time Mr. Wentworth left the island were very reasonable ; fresh pork, six pence a pound ; pickled pork, eight-pence ; wheat from seven to ten shillings a bushel ; potatoes three shillings the hundred weight ; fowls from six-pence to a shilling ; ducks

ducks from ten-pence to fifteen-pence; turkeys, seven shillings and six-pence; geese, ten shillings; the goats, eight pounds each; goats flesh eighteen-pence per pound; these last articles were dear, owing to the scarcity; but on the whole not more than one-third of the price they bore here. European commodities were nearly at the same price. The inhabitants amounted to nearly one thousand, about six hundred men, and the remainder women and children: the births for these last five years have been one hundred and ninety-six, and the deaths one hundred and forty-two, forty of which were under two years of age. At this time plenty reigned throughout the island, every barn was full, and several thousand pounds of fresh pork had been cured, and fifty tons of salt provisions in store; so that it may now be stated that the colony is fully and completely established. Governor King having by unremitting exertions brought his little colony to this degree of perfection, now turned his thoughts towards England, as the only means of restoring his health, which had been greatly impaired; and on the 23d of October, 1796, he embarked with his family on board the *Britannia* transport for England; Mr. Wentworth had arrived here in the beginning of the year, having received an appointment in this colony.

CHAP. XXIII.

IN the commencement of the year 1794, the colony was prodigiously alarmed on account of the great scarcity of provisions.---The public store had never been in such a reduced state ; a reduction of two pounds of wheat per week, had taken place, and only one serving of salt provisions left, which was only half a week's allowance ; after that period, bread and water would be the only resource of the greater part of the inhabitants ; but fortunately on Saturday the 8th of March, when the doors of the stores had been finally closed, and the convicts had received their last ration of salt meat, the signal for a fail was made---and a fail, a fail, re-echoed from every part of the settlement.

A ship had been contracted for, by Mr. Bampton, from India about a year ago, the return of which was hourly expected ; we had also hopes of the *Dædalus*, from the north west coast of America---She had left England with a cargo of provisions, and articles of traffic, and joined captain Vancoover at Nootka Sound.---After having delivered what articles the *Discovery* and *Chatham* could at that time take on board, she was dispatched to this port, with that part of her cargo which was destined for us ; and such stock as she might be able to procure from the islands she might touch at in

in her passage: Captain Vancouver requiring that she should join him again. On their passage out, the agent for transports, Mr. Hergist, was unfortunately killed, with Mr. Gootch, an astronomer, who was going to join captain Vancouver, at Whahoo, one of the Sandwich islands.

These people are described by Mr. Mears, in his voyages, as a very quiet inoffensive people, which description begat a confidence in them, so that they went on shore unarmed; the savages no sooner had them in their possession than they fell upon them, and most inhumanly murdered them. An armed party was sent from the ship but too late; for the two gentlemen were already massacred, and the horrid cannibals were preparing to broil and eat them; however, they drove them into the woods, and gathering the mangled limbs together, buried them on the beach.

A boat with an officer was sent down the harbour, and returned in the evening with the information that a ship under English colours had stood a considerable way into the bay, but being headed by a violent squall, she split her foretop sail, and was compelled again to put to sea. It was certain that the ship must be a stranger; for had any person on board had any knowledge of the harbour, they might with great safety have run her into Spring Cove; the sea running very high the officer could not board her without the most imminent danger.

As it grew dark the gale encreased, and morning was anxiously expected, but it produced us nothing but disappointment and uncertainty;

certainty ; we saw no more of her on that day, but the wind veering about to the great joy of every individual in the settlement, she hove in sight again on Monday the 10th, about three o'clock in the afternoon, and at six she came safely to an anchor ; as did the Arthur, a small brig from Bengal.

This ship proved to be the William, from Cork, with a cargo of beef and pork, but not an ounce of flour ; though to make amends, she brought several pair of mill stones, and a machine for dressing flour, &c. which to us was a valuable acquisition, and the very day after they were landed, Wilkinfon's new mill was set to work ; at first it went rather heavily, but in a few days, with the labour of nine men, ground a bushel of wheat in less than twenty minutes : previous to this there was no mill in the colony ; the military as well as the convicts were obliged to make the best shift they could to render it into flour.

The brig had on board a small quantity of beef and pork, some sugar, rum, and coarse calicoes.---To our great surprise she brought no news of Mr. Bampton ; nor had there been an account of his arrival at any of the ports in India. When he sailed from this place he expressed his determination of attempting a passage between this county and New Guinea. The navigation through this passage is mentioned as the most dangerous ever performed by any navigator : it had been passed by captain Bligh, and he was twenty days running through the passage. One day coming to an anchor to avoid danger, the Providence broke two of her anchors ; and at last brought up near the shore, when

when eight canoes daringly attacked her, and killed and wounded several of her people---some of these canoes were seventy feet long, and contained six and twenty persons. To the disappointment which the colony sustained from the failure of the contracts, already mentioned, for cattle and provisions, these accounts alarmed every one for Mr. Bampton's safety, and they feared that his ship had been wrecked on some of those shoals with which the streights abound, and that his officers and people had fallen a sacrifice to the natives.

In consequence of these fortunate arrivals, full allowance of salt meat was issued; and as soon as the cargoes were landed, the former deficiencies of allowance were made up to every individual. On the 17th the last of the wheat was served, a proper quantity being reserved for seed, and on the next serving day, ten pounds of Indian corn was substituted for the allowance of wheat; although it was not yet ripe, and quite unfit to grind; the issuing it in this state was a matter of necessity. Had the settlers returned the wheat which they had received from government to sow their ground last season, no such necessity would have existed; and it was certainly their duty to have stepped forward at this moment to assist the colony; but though they all knew the anxiety that prevailed to preserve the seed wheat, yet when applied to, they all pleaded that they had not sufficient to sow their grounds for the present season.-- This plea was well known to be without the least shadow of truth; in consequence, the governor ordered all those whose time of being victualled had expired, to be struck

struck off the list, and left to provide for themselves, a punishment which they richly deserved---some of them had been permitted to receive their rations for more than a year after their eighteen months had expired---the term specified by government,

The distresses of the colony did not seem to make any amendment in the morals of the convicts. Gambling still prevailed among them to its fullest extent. One of the overseers, very much addicted to this ruinous passion, had given great offence to some of the prisoners, whereupon they formed a plan to rob him the first time he was observed to be favoured by fortune. He was accordingly surrounded one evening when at play, and having won a hazard of twenty-five dollars, they rushed upon him as he was gathering up the stake, and secured the whole. He was fortunate enough to seize one of them with ten of the dollars in his hand, but lost the remainder. The offender was one who sometime since had been reprieved at the foot of the gallows; he instantly received a severe corporal punishment, and the overseer, M'Koy, a sharp reprimand; in extenuation, he confessed that gaming had been his profession for many years, and that had it not been for this vice he should never have visited this country in the degrading situation of a convict.

In the month of April the *Dædalus* returned from Nootka, by her we learnt that Captain Vancoover had been to Whahoo, and that three of the natives had been delivered to him by the chief of the island, for the purpose of being sacrificed to the manes of Mr. Gootch and
lieutenant

lieutenant Hergift. The poor devils, after remaining some time on board the *Discovery*, were taken one by one into a canoe, and put to death along side the ship, by one of the chiefs, with a pistol; the effects of which equally astonished the executioner and the spectators.

One of the natives of Port Jackson, who had taken the name of Collins, had conceived a friendship for lieut. Hanson, and had made the voyage with him. On his return to Sydney he found his wife in possession of another, a very fine young fellow called by us Wyatt. The news of Collins's return and his being cloathed like us, drew many of his countrymen about him, and his rival among the rest; they surveyed each other with contemptuous fullness, while the poor wife appeared greatly terrified; undetermined which to claim as her protector, suspecting that she should be the sufferer whether she was to belong to the former or her present husband. The point was soon determined—they shivered a spear together, and Wyatt, who was wounded in the contest, was obliged to yield up the lady to her former lord, who, after having asserted his right by the force of arms, appeared indifferent about the reward, and was seen soon after traversing the country in quest of another wife.

Some of the natives perceiving that we were desirous of other fresh water rivers besides the Hawkesbury, assured us that at a small distance from Botany Bay, there was a large river which run into the sea. Accordingly two of the soldiers who could be depended on, were sent from the south shore of Botany Bay, well
armed

armed, with provisions for a week.—A young man, a native, went with them as a guide; he professed a thorough knowledge of the country, and named the place where the fresh water was to be found; however, after a ramble of six days they returned; it appeared that he had soon walked beyond his knowledge, and trusted to the soldiers to bring him back. Having penetrated about twenty miles to the southward of Botany Bay they came to a pretty deep bay, which they went round; but discovered no traces of fresh water. The native evinced no disappointment, but returned as cheerfully and as well pleased as if he had led them to the banks of the finest river in the world. An Irish attorney, a convict, about this time planned an excursion of a different nature; which was to seize one of the long boats, and in her endeavour to find his way to Batavia. There was about a dozen concerned, and they had procured a quantity of provisions; casks, sails, and many other necessary articles were provided, and when the discovery was made were found in the house of the principal. As there were no seamen among them, it was very lucky they were prevented from putting to sea; as during the night they were to sail, it blew a violent gale of wind, and they must all have inevitably gone to the bottom. All that government had to regret in these desertions was the loss of the boats; for the colony would not sustain any injury from the evasion of a few malcontents, who were too idle to labour, and constantly promulgating their own seditious opinions among the other convicts.

Wilkinson

Wilkinson the mill-right was drowned in a pond which he ventured into after a duck he had shot, and getting entangled among the weeds, disappeared, though he was an expert swimmer, and there were several settlers by, who had been with him on the party, but could give him no assistance.

This unfortunate man was brought out in the Neptune as a convict, and had worked undistinguished among his fellow prisoners near three years, before it was discovered that he possessed any mechanical talents; nor very probably would they ever have been known, had they not been called forth by a desire of rivalling a mill-wright, of the name of Thorpe, who had been sent out by government.

He accordingly, having gained permission, set about a mill, the principal wheel of which was 15 feet in diameter, and was worked by two men. This attempt being in direct opposition to the government mill-wright, consequently he could derive no assistance from his knowledge and abilities; and he had not only to contend with his opinions but of all those whom he could prejudice against him. The most laborious work, of cutting and preparing the timber, was performed by his fellow-prisoners, who voluntarily gave him their labour. It took him upwards of three months before it was offered for trial, when it proved defective, owing to the timber not being properly seasoned; however the projector was found to possess great merit, and had the whole been constructed on a larger scale it would no doubt have answered his most sanguine expectations. Perceiving what were the defects of his first essay, he undertook to make one on an improved plan,

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which

which he was prevented from completing by his untimely death.

Some daring villains, returning evil for good, broke into the house of the Rev. Mr. Johnston, and robbed him of various articles to a very considerable amount: his servants were suspected (and no doubt justly) of being accessory, as the part they entered was the store-room, and only known to those about the house. Several people were taken up, and some of the articles found in the woods, but those who committed the robbery had the address to elude a discovery. Another daring burglary was committed in a house occupied by Mr. Kent, agent for the convicts; he had secured the door with a strong padlock, and after sun-set had gone out to spend the evening. About nine o'clock word was brought him that his house had been broken open; on going home he found that the staple had been wrenched off, and a large chest, a load for four men, had been carried away. It contained a large quantity of wearing apparel, money, bills, letters, &c. and although the robbery could not have been perpetrated more than an hour or two, no traces of it could be found, although a great number of people spent the greater part of the night in searching after them: the chest and a very small part of its contents were found the next morning. A highway robbery was also committed about the same time on the person of an American supercargo. He was attacked in the dusk of the evening by two men, close by the barracks; as they struck him they seized hold of his watch, and with a violent jerk tore away the seals; the watch falling on the ground, and the place being too public for them to

to stay to look for it, they decamped with the seals only.

Notwithstanding every precaution, the horrid vice of gaming (the parent of these enormities) still prevailed; from the address and management with which it was carried on, the persons of the peace-officers were known to them, and that they might not be detected in the fact, one of the party, each in their turn, was stationed to look out and give the alarm.

In the second year of the settlement, it was reported that a man was found murdered in one of the coves, a short distance from the settlement; a general muster of the convicts thereupon took place, but no person was absent except Cæsar, a black fellow, who had absconded a few days before, from the service of one of the officers, and taken to the woods with some provisions, an iron pot and a musket. Robberies being very frequent after Cæsar's flight, parties were sent after him, who, at length, with some difficulty, brought him in. He was reputed the hardest working man in the country; his body was muscular, and well calculated for hard labour; but in his intellects he was not far removed from the brute creation; his appetite was so ravenous that he could devour the full ration of three days in one; to pamper this appetite he was compelled to steal from others;—and this he did at every opportunity, without even caring for the consequences; indeed he was so indifferent about being punished with death, that he used to declare if they should *scrag* him, he would quiz them all, and shew them some gig at the *nubbing-cheat* before he was turned off. The governor did not think him a proper object to

make an example of, therefore ordered that he should be kept at work in fetters ; however, he contrived to free himself from them, and several times got off to the woods, but was generally soon taken, and a severe flogging was always the result, and which he alway treated with the utmost contempt. In one of his excursions he quarrelled with and killed one of the natives called Pemulwy, who had some time before wounded Collins, a great favourite with the colonists ; he requested his friends to take him to the hospital, and when he was brought thither, it was found that a barbed spear had been driven into his loins, close to the vertebræ of the back, and was so firmly fixed that all the efforts of the surgeons to remove it, with their instruments, were ineffectual. Finding that he could not be relieved by art, he determined to trust to their general physician and surgeon, (Nature) and he did not trust in vain ; for some weeks after he was seen walking about with the spear unmoved, even after the wound had suppurated, but at last after many fruitless efforts, his wife Warreweer, succeeded, and drew it out with her teeth, after which he quickly recovered.

The many robberies that were nightly committed, rendered it expedient to put a stop to an evil so destructive of the happiness and comfort of the industrious inhabitants. Cæsar was still in the woods, with several other vagabonds, all of whom were armed, and as the savage had declared that he would never suffer himself to be taken alive, it became absolutely necessary to secure such a desperado at all events. A proclamation was accordingly issued, promising to whomsoever should bring him in, with his arms, a reward of five gallons of spirits ; and those
who

who were indulged with ammunition by the officers, were informed, that if they should be discovered in supplying the plunderers and run-aways with any part of it, they would be deemed accomplices in the robberies, and punished accordingly.

This proclamation had not the desired effect. Black Cæsar continued to elude all his pursuers; and scarcely a day passed but complaints of robberies were preferred against him. In short, every theft that was committed was ascribed to him; a cask of pork was stolen from the mill-house, the upper part of which was accessible; the centinels who had charge of the building were tried and acquitted, and the theft was laid upon Cæsar, or some of the vagabonds in the woods, the number of whom at this time amounted to near a dozen.

This fellow continued his lawless and predatory reign till the 15th of February, 1796, when he was shot by one Wimbrow. This man and another, allured by the reward, had been some time in search of him; having found his haunt, a cavern, the mouth of which was covered with short thick brush-wood, which rendered it almost imperceptible, they dogged him, and saw him enter it in the dusk of the evening; they hid themselves near it all night. In the morning, when he turned out of his den, he looked round, and seeing his danger, presented his piece; ere he could pull the trigger, Wimbrow fired and shot him—he was taken to the house of Rose, the settler, at Liberty Plains, where he died in a few hours—Thus was the colony at length rescued from the depredations of a ruffian, whom no indulgence could reclaim, nor severity intimidate.

CHAP. XXIV.

ABOUT the middle of July, 1794, arrived the *Fancy*, *Snow*, from *Bombay*, with a part of the provisions contracted for with captain *Bampton*, who had arrived at *Bombay*, after a tedious voyage of seven months. *Mr. Thomas Dell*, formerly chief-mate of the *Shah Hormuzear*, commanded this vessel; from him we were informed of the following particulars of that disastrous voyage. The *Shah Hormuzear*, in company with the *Chesterfield*, sailed from *Norfolk Island* on the 27th of May, 1793.—On the 1st of July they fell in with an island, which they called *Tate's Island*.—Captain *Hill*, of the *New South Wales* corps, with *Mr. Carter*, had taken their passage to Europe in this ship—*Mr. Shaw*, chief mate of the *Chesterfield*, with a boat's crew, went on shore for fresh provisions; they purposed staying all night on the island to barter for emu feathers. They had scarce landed when it came on to blow, and the ship was driven considerably to leeward of the bay.

The natives received the gentlemen very kindly, and appeared highly gratified with the presents which they severally made them. It was now proposed that *Mr. Carter*, *Mr. Shaw* and *Ascot*---the convict whose activity preserved the *Sirius* from being destroyed by fire, the night she went on shore at *Norfolk Island*---should proceed to the top of a high point of land

land which was at some distance, and that captain Hill should stay by the boat, with her crew, four seamen belonging to the Chesterfield.

The party proceeding inland had taken the precaution of arming themselves. Nothing particular occurred during their walk, though some trifling circumstances induced Ascott to suspect that the natives meditated some mischievous design against them; this idea he imparted to his companions, who scouted his apprehensions. On their return from the hill, their designs became more apparent, and the savages seemed only deterred from committing violence on them by the activity of Ascott, who frequently presented his musket at them to keep them off, but notwithstanding his activity and vigilance they at length made their attack. They first attempted to make themselves master of Ascott's gun, finding him the most likely to annoy them; directly after which Mr. Carter, who was the foremost of the party, suddenly exclaimed "My God, my God! they have murdered me." Ascott, who still retained his gun, instantly fired, on which the natives left them and fled into the bushes. Ascott now came to the spot where he saw a most dreadful spectacle, Mr. Carter lying bleeding on the ground, and Mr. Shaw with a large wound on his throat under the left jaw; they were however able to rise and proceed down to the boat. On their arrival at the beach they called out to their companions to fire; but to their extreme horror they perceived captain Hill and one of the seamen lying dead on the sand, cut and mangled in the most barbarous manner.

Two

Two others of the seamen they saw floating on the water, with their throats cut from ear to ear,—the fourth sailor they found dead in the boat, mangled in the same shocking manner. With much difficulty these unhappy people got into their boat, and, cutting her grapnel, pulled off from this treacherous island. While they were getting out of the bay they perceived the natives dragging the bodies of captain Hill and the seamen from the beach towards some large fires, which they supposed were prepared for the occasion, yellowing and howling at the same time dismally.

These wretched survivors of their companions, having seen from the top of the hill, whither their ill-fated curiosity had led them, a large sand bank not far from the island, determined to run under the lee of it, as they very reasonably expected that boats would be sent from the ship in search of them. They experienced very little ease or rest that night, and when day light appeared found that they had drifted nearly out of sight of the island, and to leeward of the sand bank.

Finding it was impossible to reach the bank, they determined, by the advice of Shaw, the only seaman among them, to run direct for Timor, the wind being very luckily fair for that settlement. On examining what was left in the boat, they found a few of the trifles which they had taken to barter with the natives, and Ascott's great coat, but neither compass, provisions, or water. They however pushed on to the westward, trusting to that Providence for their relief, which had delivered them from

from the treacherous cannibals at Tate's Island.

In this forlorn and destitute condition, weakened by loss of blood, with scarce strength to manage the boat, their sufferings became almost too much for human nature to sustain before they reached a place of safety.

They left the island on the third of July; on the 7th two small birds dropped into the boat which they instantly devoured, and were considerably revived by this providential relief; on the next day they had the land on both sides of them, they passed through these straits, and continued their course to the westward. All that could be done with their wounds was to open them from time to time and cleanse them with salt water; on the 11th they saw land a-head of them, and in the afternoon pushed their boat into a small bay. Here they found the natives apparently very hospitable, giving them roasted yams and fresh water; they also gave them to understand that Timor was still to the southward of them. Not considering themselves in perfect safety they again embarked; they had not gone far from the land when they perceived that they were chased by a large proa, which they escaped by standing over a reef which the Indians did not choose to encounter. At day-break on the 13th they saw a point of land, but not being able to weather it, they ran into a small bay, where the natives received them, crying out "Bligh, Bligh." Here they landed, were hospitably entertained, and freed from the horror of perishing by famine.

This

This place was called by the natives Sarrett, and was distinct from Timor land, which was the first they refreshed at. They found also that there was another small island to the northward, called by them Fardatte, but which is commonly called in charts Tanabor, where a proa comes yearly from Banda to trade, and which they expected in about seven or eight months.

On the 25th of June Mr. Carter's wound was entirely healed, after having thirteen pieces of the fractured skull taken out; but he did not long survive his cure,—he caught a fever on the 17th of November, and died on the 10th of December, much regretted by his two fellow-sufferers. Mr. Shaw and Ascott waited in anxious expectation the arrival of the trading proa from Banda, which, to their great joy, entered the harbour on the 12th of March.

For Banda they sailed on the 10th of April, and arrived there on the 1st of May, where they were received with the greatest hospitality by the governor, who supplied them with every necessary that they wanted, and provided them with a passage on board an Indiaman bound to Batavia, where they landed on the 10th of October.

To return to the ships ;-- the boats had but scarcely landed, when it came on to blow, and increased to a gale, so that the ships were driven several leagues to leeward of the bay in which they landed; and it was three days before they could send any boats in search of them. Mr. Dell, and a party well armed, searched in vain for them, and burned several huts of the natives.

natives. At a place where there had been a fire they had incontestible proofs that their friends had fallen sacrifices to the inhuman cruelty of the natives; three human hands, their great coats, with the buttons cut off, a tinder-box, a lanthorn, a tomahawk, and other articles from the boat were also found. They rowed entirely round the island, searching in vain for their boat; they endeavoured to make some of the natives prisoners, but without effect; they, however, made them understand, by signs, that they had murdered all who were in the boat, except two, who had got away with her. He was therefore obliged to return on board with the melancholy account.

The island is described as abounding with sweet potatoes, bananas, plantains, bamboo, cocoa trees and mangroves; the natives stout, and from five feet eight inches to six feet two in height; their colour dark, and their language harsh and disagreeable. Their weapons are spears, lances of hard black wood, and clubs about four feet in length. They live in huts, resembling haystacks, (with a pole driven through the middle,) formed of long grass and the leaves of the cocoa tree, and many contain six or eight persons each; they are enclosed with a strong fence of bamboo. In a corner of some of the huts were perceived a wooden image, intended to represent a man; in others the figure of a bird, very rudely carved, daubed with red ochre, and curiously decorated with the feathers of the emu. Over these images were suspended, from the roof, several strings of human hands, each string having five or six hands on it. In some
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they found piles of human skulls ; and in one, in which there was a larger pile than in any other that they had visited, they observed some gum burning before a wooden image. The island was supposed to be about fifteen miles in circumference, in latitude one hundred and forty-two degrees, fifty nine minutes east of Greenwich.—The Shah Hormuzear did not arrive at Timor until the 11th of September, having been detained in the straits by a most difficult and dangerous navigation.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE rogues who had broken into Mr. Kent's house had the audacity to send him a letter in miserable verse, containing some accusation against Bevan, who was at present in confinement for a felony, and a woman who they supposed had given information of the people that broke into the clergyman's store-room, of which they acknowledged themselves to be the perpetrators; the letter was accompanied with a pocket-book belonging to Mr. Kent, with some memorandums, but not one of the bills that were in it were ever recovered.

This daring proceeding, and the frequency of their nightly depredations, obliged every person to be on their guard and to keep a strict look out, till at length three convicts were apprehended on suspicion of house-breaking, and were accordingly brought to trial—John Bevan was acquitted for want of evidence; the other two, John Fleming and Archibald Macdonald, were capitally convicted; they had broken into a soldier's hut, and were said to have been concerned in robbing Mr. Johnston.—They were executed on the third day after the trial.

In the month of August, 1794, a party of half a dozen of us set out in search of stragglers, of which there were a great number in the woods, and took provision for a week's excursion; after proceeding a few miles inland, we came to a ridge of mountains, very difficult of ascent, and when at the top our prospect was bounded by another ridge with an intermediate valley of about a mile across; in this valley we took up our first night's lodging in a sort of hut which had been

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the occasional shelter of some of the hunters tribe ; we kindled a fire and kept watch by turns till day-break, when we proceeded on our journey, and were not a little surpris'd when we had ascended the second ridge, to find another still before us at about the same distance ; in short, we passed seventeen or eighteen of these ridges in the same manner ; at last we despaired of penetrating beyond the mountains, and determin'd on returning, having been, according to computation, sixty miles from the settlement, and twenty miles farther in the country than any person had yet ventured.

The summit of these rocks are iron stone, large fragments of which lay scattered in the vallies, in which were ponds of water with a reddish tinge,—the soil on the ascent was tolerably good, and afforded shelter for large herds of the red kangaroo. The vallies bore visible signs of being frequently visited by high winds or hurricanes, and were strewn by trunks of trees : we saw but few of the natives, who fled at our approach, and seem'd to prefer the enjoyment of rocks and woods to any intercourse with us : we return'd to Paramatta after a most toilsome journey of nine days, and without obtaining the least satisfaction in our researches.

The Irish prisoners were now again become very troublesome, and several of them missing muster, it was instantly rumoured that they had formed a plan to seize the Cumberland, a large decked boat, which had lately sail'd with provisions for the settlers at the Hawksbury river. Some went so far as to say that she was already taken just without the point of the harbour. Notice was immediately dispatched overland, to the settlement on the river, to put the people in the boat on their guard against a surprise, and for
them

them to return to Port Jackson the instant her cargo was delivered. An armed long-boat was also sent to protect her in her passage back.

A few days relieved us from suspense with regard to the Cumberland, as all the reports were without any foundation; and were most probably fabricated to conceal a different scheme which, while every one's attention was taken up with the fate of the Cumberland, they actually put in execution.

Some of these Hibernian gentry stole a six-oared boat, belonging to lieutenant Mc. Arthur, with which they got clear of the harbour undiscovered; but some days after she was found at Botany Bay.—The people threatened resistance, but soon took to the woods, leaving the boat with all the things they had prepared for their voyage. They soon appeared at the farms about Sydney for plunder, but one of them being fired at and wounded, the rest thought it would be most prudent to surrender themselves, which they accordingly did. They confessed that they never meant to return, but wanted to go to Broken Bay, which they thought they had reached when they arrived at Botany Bay, being entirely ignorant of its situation or whether it lay to the northward, or the southward. The wounded man died the next day in the hospital, and his companions, after a severe flogging, were sent to their respective gangs to labour, with an iron on each of their legs.

About this time a public granary at Paramatta was burned down, but whether owing to incendiaries, or accident, was never known; the loss was very considerable, near three thousand bushels of wheat; and a quantity of stock belonging to individuals also perished in the flames.

The natives about the Hawkesbury now began

to quarrel with the settlers, and took every opportunity of pilfering from them; becoming more bold from not meeting with a check, half a dozen of them stole unawares upon one of the settlers, wounded him and his servant, and got them in their power before they could procure any assistance. The servant was so severely hurt with spears and clubs that his life was endangered;—encouraged by this first essay, they a few days after, in a stronger party, attacked the huts while the settlers were in their grounds at work, and were carrying off all their clothes, provisions, and whatever they could lay their hands on; the alarm being given, the sufferers collected what arms they could, and attacked the murderers, in a body, and killed seven or eight of them on the spot.

It was generally supposed that the settlers had drawn these evils upon themselves by their own misconduct: there was not a doubt but that many natives had been wantonly fired upon; and whenever they could get any of their children into their possession would detain them, notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of their parents to return them.

In the autumn of 1794, warrants of emancipation passed the great seal of the settlement, in behalf of Robert Sidaway, who received an unconditional pardon, in consideration of his diligence, good conduct, and strict integrity in his employment for several years, as the public baker of the settlement; and William Leach, who was permitted to quit the country, provided he did not return to England till the term of his transportation was expired. Eight were permitted to list in the New South Wales corps, and James Harris, James Ruffler, and Richard Partridge, who were all transported for life, received a pardon,

a pardon, or, (according to their own term) were made free on the ground, which enabled them to become settlers, as were also William Joyce, Benjamin Carver, and William Waring.

Two female natives, the sisters of Banalong and his fellow traveller, having applied to the lieutenant governor to defend them from the insults and cruelties they frequently experienced from their countrymen, in the absence of their protectors, were sent on board the *Dædalus* to be taken to Norfolk Island, where they would spend their time in peace and retirement, under the protection of captain King, till the return of their brothers.

John Bevan, who has been several times made mention of, was tried on the 1st of October, for breaking open the house of William Fielder, a settler at Sydney, and being caught in the fact, was fully convicted, and received sentence of death; and at nine in the morning of the 6th he was executed. The night previous to this execution, a murder was committed at Paramatta, by one Hill, a convict, on the body of Simon Burns, a free settler. It appeared on the trial, which lasted five hours, that Hill, a butcher by trade, had lived in a state of continual animosity with the deceased, taking every opportunity of abusing and quarrelling with him,—they had been out drinking in company all Sunday;—a woman who lived with Hill coming in, words arose between them, and Hill rising to strike her, she ran out of the house to avoid a beating; the deceased interfering was stabbed by Hill in the heart; he lived only a few minutes, and had but just strength to declare, in the presence of several witnesses, that the butcher had killed him. The prisoner attempted to establish an alibi, but the fact was clearly proved against him, and he was sentenced

to die, and his body to be dissected; which was accordingly performed on the 16th.

A very serious complaint was made by the natives (through the medium of some who lived at Sydney, and could speak English tolerably) against the settlers at the Hawkesbury, which corroborated the opinion before stated. It was now asserted that some of them had seized a native boy, and tying him hand and foot, had dragged him several times over a fire, till his back was dreadfully burned; after which they threw him into the river, where they shot at and killed him. A strict investigation of this complaint immediately took place, when it came out that a boy had been actually shot by them when he was in the water, but that they had considered him as a spy, detached from a large body of the natives, who had assembled with an intention of falling on them: and that he was returning to them with an account of their weakness, there being only one musket among several farms. These assertions being uncontradicted, they were admitted as truths; but it was conjectured by many only to be a fabrication, invented to cover the true circumstance,—that a boy had been cruelly and wantonly murdered by them.

An action at civil law was brought by Joyce, the convict who had lately received his freedom, against Thomas Davenney, a superintendant of convicts at Toongabbe, when the defendant availed himself of a misnomer; the plea being admitted, the plaintiff was nonsuited, and before the next court assembled, the parties compromised the business.

CHAPTER XXVI.

On the 25th of October, Messrs. Muir, Palmer, Skirving, and Margarot, four gentlemen, arrived in the Surprise transport. They had been tried in Scotland for sedition, were convicted, and transported to this country. They were each allowed a small neat house and garden, with servants to wait on them.

Mr. Muir was tried before the High Court of Justiciary, in Edinburgh, on the 20th of August, 1793. He was accused of exciting, at different meetings, denominated *Societies of Reform*, by means of seditious speeches and harangues, a spirit of disaffection against the king and government—of producing and reading aloud “An Address from the United Irishmen in Dublin to the Delegates for promoting a reform in Scotland;” and of circulating and distributing such seditious writings. To these charges Mr. Muir pleaded *Not Guilty*. He said, he had nothing to observe on the relevancy; he would trust himself to the Jury. He had given in a written defence, in which he declared the libel to be false, and that he would *prove* that he had all along *supported the constitution*. Being asked if he had any other defence, he said, he rested upon his own written defence. He had uniformly advised the people to pursue legal and constitutional measures, as well as to read all works written upon the great national Question of reform. The Jury being named, Mr Muir *objected* to every one of them; he said, that as the gentlemen were all subscribers of the Goldsmith’s Hall Association, and had offered a reward for discovering those who circulated what they were pleased to term
seditious

seditionous publications, they had already *prejudged* him, and were therefore improper persons to pass upon his assize. The solicitor-general, in reply, said their Lordships were equally precluded, as both they, and every friend to the constitution, had condemned the writings of Paine.—After examining the witnesses in behalf of the prosecution, and the prisoner, the lord justice Clerk summed up the evidence; and after commenting in very strong language on the different parts of it, left the jury to draw their own conclusions; who bringing in their verdict *guilty*, the court sentenced him to be transported beyond the seas, to such place as his majesty, with the advice of his privy council, should judge proper, for the space of fourteen years.—Mr. Muir observed, that though some in the court might think the sentence too lenient, and others too severe, yet had he been taken from the bar to the scaffold, he would have met his fate with equal coolness, so convinced was he of the justice of his cause.—Mr. Palmer, who was a clergyman, was tried at Perth, found guilty of writing a seditious hand-bill, and his sentence was seven years transportation. Messrs. Margarot and Skirving were tried for the same practices, and were sentenced to fourteen years each.

By this ship we heard that his excellency was on his passage, and might be very soon expected. As soon as the store ships were cleared, a general distribution of slops took place among the convicts; to the men, a jacket, waistcoat, shirt, hat, and a pair of breeches; and to the women, one petticoat, one shift, one pair of stockings, one cap, one neck-kerchief, one hat, and one jacket, made of raven duck. A distinction was made with respect to the overseers and watchmen, who received a coat instead of a jacket, duck trousers,

trowsers, instead of breeches, and one pair of shoes.

Several seamen belonging to a ship bound to the north-west coast of America, preferring the pleasures which they met with on shore in the society of the women, and the free circulation of grog, to proceeding on their voyage, left their ship some days previous to her sailing. Application being made to the lieutenant-governor, orders were issued to apprehend them; they were also given to understand, that if they remained behind they would be severely punished, and kept to hard labour; but the settlements now became so extensive, that runaways and vagrants never failed of finding employment in the remote parts, more particularly at the river.

Towards the close of the year, a farm of five and twenty acres of ground was sold by public auction for thirteen pounds; four acres were planted with Indian corn, and half an acre with potatoes; there was besides a tolerable hut on the premises. This farm was the property of Samuel Crane, a soldier, who received his death by a tree falling on him, which he was felling.

Lieutenant Governor Grose embarked for England in the *Dædalus*, on the 15th of December, with several gentlemen of the colony, and some convicts, whose terms had expired. The command was now vested in captain William Paterson, senior officer in the colony, and he took the prescribed oaths accordingly.

Many of the convicts terms were now expired; numbers also, by their good conduct, had obtained their emancipation, and were at liberty to work for themselves: the officers and settlers had also a considerable number in their employ, so that the public agriculture was nearly at a stand. Captain Paterson, therefore, caused a general muster

muster to take place, and upwards of fifty people were found without any employment, whose labour still belonged to the public; most of these were laid hold of, and sent to Paramatta and Toongabbe, with a large gang of labourers, to prepare the public grounds for wheat for the ensuing season. They began their work on the 2d of January, new year's day being always kept as a holiday.

It was now determined to station some military force at the Hawkesbury settlement, as well to preserve good order and regulation among the settlers, as to defend them against the natives; accordingly a schooner was dispatched with an officer and a guard; they had also a mill and provisions for the settlers.

A convict, on entering his hut, was bit on the foot by a black snake; an immediate swelling took place up to his hip, and a large tumour in the groin. Mr. Thompson, the surgeon, reduced all the swellings, by frequently bathing the parts with oil, and fortunately saved both the man's life and the limb also. Before the settlement was cleared from the wood, snakes and other reptiles were by no means so frequently seen as since; by clearing and opening the woods they were not destroyed by fire, but now they were often seen basking in the foot-paths at mid-day, particularly after a shower of rain.

The principal labour performed in January was preparing the ground for wheat. The Indian corn looked remarkably well; it was now ripening, and the Hawkesbury settlers supposed that they should have between thirty and forty thousand bushels of that grain raised among themselves. Allured by the civil treatment they experienced, several native boys had taken up their quarters among the settlers in the several districts, and

and became extremely useful ; they laboured cheerfully in the fields, and performed more of that kind of labour in a few hours, than a convict would in a whole day.

The store-house on the Hawksbury being finished, the stores from the schooner were landed, and put under the care of Baker, the settler ; several of the officers had come round with the schooner, with a view of selecting eligible spots for farms ; on their return, they spoke in very high terms of the crops of corn which they saw growing there—the generality of the farms that had been in wheat, producing from thirty-six to forty bushels an acre ; that a bushel was sufficient to sow an acre ; and that, if sown as early as April, the ground would produce a second harvest. Their gardens are abundantly stocked with vegetables.

A wild young fellow, named Wilson, whose term of servitude had expired, preferred living among the natives, than by earning his livelihood by the sweat of his brow. This person acquainted the settlers that the natives had threatened to put some of them to death, which caution made them vigilant and on their guard ; however, they attacked and wounded two of them.

The tribe with which Wilson associated had given him the name of Bunboe ; as he was of a thoughtless, dissipated disposition, and his sole view of herding with them was merely to prevent his being obliged to work for his living, no good consequence was supposed could accrue from his conduct ; and it was not improbable but that, at some future period, he might assist them in their depredations on the settlers.

The deputy surveyor-general, Mr. Grimes, having received orders to take the schooner, as soon as she had delivered her cargo, to Port Stephens, for the purpose of taking a regular survey
of

of that harbour ; this Wilson, or Bunboe, being a useful fellow on such occasions, having a slight smattering of the native tongue, was prevailed on to go with him. On their arrival at Port Stephens they found two fresh-water branches ; they did not run far up the river, but terminated in a swamp not far from the beach. Mr. Grimes describes the land on each side to be low and sandy, and found nothing which could render a second visit necessary. The natives were far from being friendly ; they appeared rather a taller and a stouter race than those about this settlement, and their language entirely different. Their canoes and huts were considerably larger than those we had seen here, but their weapons were the same. They were welcomed on shore with a dance, joined hand and hand, round a tree, probably to express their unanimity ; but one of them making signs for Mr. Grimes to follow him into the wood, which he had no sooner entered than he poised a spear, and was on the point of throwing it, when Wilson, who had watched his motions, levelled a double-barrel gun at him, and fired ; he instantly dropped, and it was thought he was wounded, but he presently jumped up, and prepared a second time to throw the spear, when Wilson gave him the fire he had in reserve, which took effect, and he was seen to rise no more. Mr. Grimes now made the best of his way to the boat, which he reached without further molestation.

The 17th of March, St. Patrick found many votaries in the settlement, and the late arrivals from the Cape had made Brandy very plentiful ;—the libations to the Saint were proportionably liberal ; so that riot and debauchery, for the space of four and twenty hours, were the order of the day.

A few days after the feast of St. Patrick,
having

having some business at Sydney, and passing the brick-fields, I saw at the lower end of the second field, one of the native women in close conference with a young man; an amorous scene ensued, which was soon interrupted by the appearance of a third person, who proved to be the lord and master of the lady, who lay in the embraces of another. She instantly took to flight, and escaped for the time, but the lover was not so fortunate, for the enraged husband, being much more powerful than his antagonist, literally beat him to death, before we could arrive at the spot to his rescue. The friends of the deceased called Goruey to an account for the murder, and the affair being conducted with more regard to punctilio than justice, he came off with a slight wound in his thigh.

Amongst various other burglaries, the house of Mr. Muir was broke into, and nearly all that gentleman's property stolen; some articles were laid in his way the next day, but he remained a very considerable loser by the visit. The private stock yards were frequently attacked, but a pretty sharp look out being generally kept, they seldom met with much success in those attempts. One fellow played off a trick that he thought would go down with the hungry; he stole a very fine greyhound, and, instead of keeping him to hunt, killed him secretly, and sold the flesh to different people for kangaroo, at nine-pence per pound; but being detected, he received a most exemplary punishment,—a just reward for his villainy.

A criminal court having been assembled on the 20th of May, Mary Pawson was tried for the crime of arson. On the trial it appeared that the prisoner bore a most implacable hatred to the wife of the owner of the house that was burnt, but

there was no evidence that directly led to convict her of having set the house on fire. She was accordingly acquitted; but the settlers adjoining their farm, disliking such a character in their neighbourhood, obliged the husband, who was an honest man, and had nothing against him but his wife, to sell a very good farm, and go to a more remote and less advantageous situation. At the same time, James Barry, a notorious offender, was tried for attempting to break into a settler's house at the Ponds, with an intent to steal; the proof was too clear to admit of his escape. He was sentenced to receive a thousand lashes.

Bunboe, directly after his return from Port Stephens, went off to the natives at the river. Another vagabond like himself, Knight, thinking there must be much pleasure in the roving life which Wilson led, determined to go off with him; they had not been gone long when they both returned into the town, accompanied by some of their companions. On the following day it appeared that this visit was for the purpose of forcing a wife from among the women of this district, agreeably to the custom of the country. They accordingly selected two girls, the eldest not twelve years old, whom they seized, and assisted by their friends, were hurrying off with them. The shrieks of the children soon brought assistance, who rescued them, and took their ravishers, who were severely punished; but though a strict guard was kept over them, they soon found means to elude their vigilance, and joined their former companions.

CHAPTER XXVII.

ON the 20th of August, his majesty's ship Providence, captain Broughton, arrived from England, with the agreeable intelligence that they had lost governor Hunter, in the Reliance, at Rio Janeiro, and that he might be hourly expected. The Providence had missed this port, and was driven as far to the northward as Port Stephens, where, to the great surprize of captain Broughton, he found four runaways from this settlement; they were so covered with filth, tanned by the sun, and dried by the smoke, that they were absolutely taken for natives. They were found to be Tarwood, Lee, Connoway, and Watson. These men,—with Joseph Sutton, since dead,—in the night of the 26th of September, 1790, stole a small punt, with which they got down to Sydney; they there exchanged the punt for a boat, with a mast and sail, with which they got clear of the harbour. They had each taken provisions for a week, their clothes, bed and bedding, their iron pots, and several kitchen utensils. These desperate adventurers had been universally supposed to have been swallowed up by the ocean, or perished with hunger. They now told a melancholy tale of their sufferings in the boat, and, for many days after their arrival, had crowds of both black and white people listening to the adventures which beset them in Port Stephens. Having been hospitably received by the savages, they fared as they did; but the change in their living soon disagreed with them, and they were all taken ill, and principally affected with swellings of the abdomen, but soon recovered, except Sutton, who fell a victim. They gave the natives

a very high character for hospitality and kindness. Each of them had names given to them, with very curious ceremonies; wives also were allotted them, and one or two had children. They were never required to interfere in their wars, and were supplied by the natives with fish, and other food, and really considered them as unfortunate strangers, who had a claim to their protection. They said that the natives appeared to worship them, telling them, when they began to understand each other,—that they were undoubtedly the ancestors of some of them who had fallen in battle, and had returned from the sea to visit them again; and one of them firmly believed that his father was absolutely come back in the person of Lee, or Connoway, and took them to the spot where his body had been burnt. On being told that great numbers of people existed, far beyond their knowledge to conceive, they instantly pronounced them to be the spirits of their countrymen, which, after death, had migrated into other regions. It appeared, when Mr. Grimes was there, that they were at some distance inland; that they had heard of the schooner's being there, and were acquainted with the man who was shot by Wilson, who had afterwards recovered.

On the 7th of September, Governor Hunter arrived, but did not assume the exercise of his authority until the 11th, when his commission was publicly read by the judge advocate. His excellency, in a very pertinent speech, declared the expectations he had from every one's conduct, touching with great delicacy on that of the gentlemen who had newly arrived from Scotland, and who were present; strongly urging the necessity of a general unanimity in support of his majesty's government. He was afterwards sworn in by the judge advocate, and a general act of oblivion extended

extended throughout the settlement, whereby Raymond, who was under sentence of death, was pardoned, and many runaways returned to their labour.

The report of the general muster, made by order of captain Paterfon, being laid before the governor, he thought proper to make some alterations in the assistance granted by government to settlers, and others, holding allotments of land. To the officers, cultivating grounds, he continued the number they already had, viz. ten for agriculture, and three for domestic purposes. To the settlers he allowed five male convicts; to the superintendants, constables, and store-keepers, four; the marine settlers, two; to settlers who had been convicts, one; and to serjeants of the New South Wales corps, one.

On the 5th of November, the Sovereign, store-ship, arrived from England, in which was embarked Mr Joseph Gerald, who was adjudged to fourteen years transportation, for being a member of a seditious club or association, called *The British Convention*, and for making addresses of a seditious tendency to the members of the said Convention. He arrived in a very weak and debilitated state of health. He languished about four months in the last stage of a consumption, and died on the 16th of March, 1796. This gentleman was born in the West Indies, where he inherited considerable property. His first residence in England was under the roof of doctor Parr, with whom he remained a number of years. When he returned to the West Indies he married a beautiful young lady, with a considerable fortune; by her he had two sons, with whom he went over to England to establish them at an academy, where they now are. Mrs. Gerald is still living in the West Indies. Three days after, he was followed by his companion, Mr. Skirving, who died of a dysentery. These gentlemen

were much regretted by the whole colony ; their political opinions never manifested themselves, and all their sollicitude seemed to be to evince themselves the friends of human nature.

On the 7th of November a criminal court was held, when the following persons were tried : —Chinnery, a black, for robbing his master ; Samuel Smith, and Abraham Whitehouse, for house-breaking : these were found guilty and condemned to die. Two settlers and six convicts, for an assault, with an intent to ravish Marianne Wilkinson, three of whom were found guilty, and sentenced as follows : The principal to receive one thousand lashes ; the others eight hundred each. This was the second trial for this crime ; but the witnesses prevaricated so much in the first instance, that the offenders, for that time, escaped punishment, which had encouraged several others to commit the same unmanly attacks, in numbers, on a single woman. To such a height was this infamous practice carried, that it obtained a cant name, and the poor unfortunate objects of this brutality, many of whom, through shame, concealed the circumstance, received a nickname, expressive of the injuries they received.

Several contests, which happened at this time among the natives, had brought many of the distant tribes down to Sydney, to be spectators ; some of whom observing the cattle in the colony, said that they had seen many of the same kind in the woods. This intelligence getting to the governor, he ordered a more particular enquiry to be made ; and being satisfied as to the truth of the report, and their track being clearly ascertained, his excellency determined to satisfy himself. He accordingly set off on the 27th of November with a strong party ; having travelled three days in a S. S. W. direction from the settlement at Prospect Hill,

Hill, he crossed Nepean river, and, to his great surprise and satisfaction, he fell in with a very fine herd of cattle, grazing in a rich luxuriant pasture. The day was too far advanced to make an accurate survey of them, so he halted for the night in a pleasant spot in the vicinity, expecting in the morning to be gratified with a sight of the whole herd. A doubt was started whether they were the progeny of those we had imported from the Cape, or whether they were not of a longer standing; his excellency was therefore determined to satisfy their doubts, and accordingly directed some of the party to endeavour to kill one of the calves. This they were not able to effect; for, while lying in wait to let the herd pass, which now consisted of upwards of fourscore, they were furiously attacked by a young bull, which they were obliged to kill in their own defence. This, however, answered the purpose; for, as it was full grown, they had an opportunity of satisfying their doubts respecting their identity, as being the offspring of the cattle which were lost in June, 1788. Being at this time near forty miles from any of the settlements, a very small quantity of the meat could be brought in; the remainder, to the great regret of the party, was left to be devoured by wild dogs, &c. The country where they were found grazing was remarkably pleasant; the ground was richly covered with thick luxuriant grass, the trees were thinly scattered, and free from underwood; several large plots were embellished with ponds, covered with black swans and flocks of ducks, the margins of which were beautifully fringed with variegated shrubs, and the ground from these levels rose into hills of gradual and easy ascent.

How these cattle came hither was easily accounted for. The two bulls, and five cows,
that

that strayed from the keeper in 1788, had travelled, without interruption, in a western direction, until they came to the banks of the river Nepean, where, finding the river fordable, they arrived in a country well watered and plentifully supplied with rich pasture, from whence they had no inducement to remove, and where they remained unmolessted, as none of the natives were found in their neighbourhood, and where they were likely to remain, undisturbed, securely to propagate their species. The governor, considering that it was of the greatest consequence to the colony that their numbers should not be diminished, and that, if permitted to continue thus in their wild state, they might hereafter, like the cattle on the Spanish main, not only prove sufficient for the consumption of the colony, but a source of commerce to the inhabitants; he was therefore determined, as much as in his power, to prevent any of them from being destroyed.

Bannalong, who returned with the governor from England, on his first arrival, conducted himself with a kind of *hauteur* and superiority towards his sister and relations, but which was much heightened towards his acquaintance and countrymen in general;—there he was quite the man of consequence. He declared, with a magisterial air, that he should no longer permit them to fight, and cut one another's throats, as they had done; that he should introduce peace among them, and make them love each other. He desired, when they came to see him at the governor's, that they would be more cleanly in their persons, and less brutal in their manners. He was much offended at some little indelicacies which he observed in his sister, who came in such haste to see him, with his little nephew at her back, that she left all her paraphernalia behind

behind her, and literally appeared in her birthday suit.

Bannalong had not travelled for nothing ; on the contrary, he had been an attentive observer of English manners, and particularly conducted himself with great propriety at table. His dress was also one of his primary concerns ; and it was conjectured that he would not very readily renounce the comforts of a civilized life, to resume the precarious existence of a wandering savage. Immediately on his arrival, he made enquiries after his wife Gorooarrooboolo, whom he found cohabiting with Caruey. On presenting her with a smart gipsy hat, and a rose-coloured petticoat and jacket, she made no scruple of quitting her present lover, and returning to her quandom husband. In a few days, however, she evinced the inconsistency of her nature, for she was seen stripped of her finery, and walking totally uncumbered of all kind of cloathing. Bannalong was also missing ; Caruey was sought after, but he was not in the settlement ; a few days developed the mystery, and we heard that he had been severely beaten by Bannalong, who availed himself of some lessons which he had acquired in England, and took his revenge a-la Mendoza, to the great annoyance of poor Caruey, who had much rather met him with the weapons of the country, the club and the spear : However, he being much younger and handsomer than the victor, the lady once more changed her mind, and was resolved to follow the fortunes of Caruey. Bannalong seemed perfectly satisfied with the beating he had given his rival, and hinted that it was not worth his while to think about the lady, but that he should look out and make a better choice.

Bannalong soon became weary of the restraint he was under at the governor's, and frequently absented

absented himself, and went among his former associates for days and weeks together; always taking care to leave his clothes behind him, and to resume them when he re-appeared before the governor. He continued these savage excursions for about three months, when a violent quarrel arose between him and his friend Coalby; a combat ensued, in which he got so much the worst of it, that he could not appear before the governor till his wounds were healed. He acquainted his excellency of the misunderstanding, and humbly requested that his clothes might be sent him, as also some provisions, of which he was greatly in want.

On his return to the settlement, his countenance was much disfigured; he had a wound on his mouth, which divided the upper lip, and broke two of the teeth, which gave a disgusting appearance to his face, and entirely altered his tone of voice. The source of this quarrel with Coalby was as follows: Finding himself indifferently received among the females, who did not much relish his European attainments, and not being able to gain a partner to his mind by fair means, he made an attack upon his friend's favourite, Booreea, in which he was not only unsuccessful, but was punished for his breach of friendship by Coalby, who sarcastically asked him if that conduct was a specimen of English manners.

There being among the more decent class of prisoners, several who were theatrically inclined, and being found to possess some merit, the governor acceded to the petition of Mr. Sparrow, for permission to build a theatre, which was accordingly completed in a very short time, at the expence of about one hundred pounds sterling; and it was opened, under his management, on Saturday the

the 16th of January, 1796, with Dr. Young's tragedy of *The Revenge*, which was performed in a much more respectable stile than could be expected. The house was fitted up with some taste, and the dresses were by no means despicable. In their license it was stated, that the slightest impropriety would be noticed, and the indulgence now granted, immediately withheld. There was, however, more irregularity to be apprehended from some of the audience than from the players. The gallery was the largest part of the house, the nominal admission to which was one shilling; the payment produced an evil which was not foreseen, nor could be prevented; for, in lieu of a shilling, as much flour, wheat, or spirits, as the manager thought fit to commute for the same, was often paid at the gallery door. It was feared that this, like gaming, would furnish another inducement to rob; and some of the most notorious of the convicts, (ever on the watch to exercise their talents for depredation,) looked upon the play-house as a grand desideratum, not by robbing the persons of the audience of their purses or their watches, but by breaking into their houses while the whole family were at the play; and this actually happened on the second night of their performing.

This was not the first theatrical essay; on his Majesty's birth-day, 1789, a party of the convicts performed the comedy of the *Recruiting Officer*, in a hut fitted up for the purpose: but the then infant state of the colony was unpropitious, and would not afford sufficient leisure for the colonists to indulge in a regular series of theatrical entertainments.

A soldier of the name of Eades, much respected in the colony, in collecting thatch to cover a hut, which he had just built for the comfort of his family, over-reaching himself, fell from a
rock

rock into the river, and was unfortunately drowned, leaving a wife and four children to bewail his loss; whereupon the players, with a liberality which reflected great credit upon them, performed the tragedy of the Fair Penitent, with a farce, for the benefit of the widow and orphans. The house was crowded, and the receipts amounted to near twenty pounds.

On the 18th of February, Mr. Muir found means to leave the colony, on board the Otter, bound for the N. W. coast of America. He left behind him a letter, in which he declared that he did not mean to infringe on the laws of his country, by withdrawing himself from the colony, to return to any part of Great Britain, but that he should endeavour to get to America, and there to practise at the bar as an advocate, till his sentence should expire, when he should return to his native country. Here he chiefly passed his time in literary retirement, at a small pleasant house he had purchased, just without the town.

Notwithstanding the frequent attacks and depredations of the natives in the neighbourhood of Hawkesbury river, and when it was natural to suppose that self-preservation would have prompted the settlers to unite for their mutual defence, they seldom or ever evinced the smallest disposition to assist each other. This disposition being reported to the governor, he issued a public order, directing that all people residing in the different settlements should, on the first alarm, immediately repair to the assistance of the persons attacked; and if it should be hereafter proved that any person or persons withheld their assistance, upon any attack of the natives, that they should be prosecuted, and punished accordingly. At the same time, such as had fire-arms were strictly

strictly enjoined not to fire at the natives on any account, but in their own defence, or that of their neighbours. It had been intimated to the governor, that the two white men (Wilson and Knight) had been frequently seen with the natives in their excursions, and were supposed to direct and assist in the acts of hostility by which the settlers had lately suffered. He therefore ordered them to be looked after, and apprehended as soon as they were met with. These fellows were the occasion of the most serious mischief, exhorting the natives not to fear us, and showing them the inutility of our guns when once discharged, which soon removed that terror fire-arms were wont to occasion.

The crime of forgery was now introduced into the colony. A shop being opened for the disposal of various articles imported in the store-ships, &c. and as orders on any of the officers, or responsible people, were taken, the prisoners practised their ingenuity, not only in counterfeiting dollars and rupees, but absolutely forged drafts and notes. One forged note for ten guineas, with the commissary's name, was passed, but fortunately discovered. The offenders were committed for trial, but not a stiver's worth of the property was recovered.

In spite of every precaution that could be devised by government, robberies still continued to increase. Capt. Paterson's premises were broken into, and a large property stolen from thence; a sentinel was stationed at the door, yet the thieves had the address to make a hole in the wall at the back part of the building, through which they conveyed the articles. Captain Townson's house was entered the following night, and sixty pounds, in dollars and other property, were taken away. His servants were suspected, as

were captain Paterfon's, but nothing could be proved upon them sufficient to warrant their apprehension.

Street robberies were frequently committed. On the feast of St. Patrick, two fellows, Matthew Farrell, and Richard Sutton (nick-named the Newgate Bully,) had the audacity to assault the night watch, on being detected in the act of breaking into a house.

A criminal court being held in April, four prisoners were tried for forgery, when James M'Carthy was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; the three others were acquitted. Other prisoners were tried for plundering the stores, one of whom was found guilty, viz. James Ashford, a lad, who had formerly been drummed out of the military corps: He was sentenced to seven years hard labour at Norfolk Island. A soldier was accused by an old man, a settler at the river, of an unnatural crime, but was acquitted. Two people of the stores were found guilty of stealing geese, the property of Mr. Grimes, and sentenced to receive corporal punishment. Another, in the same station, was sentenced to receive eight hundred lashes; and one man, George Hyson, for an attempt to commit the abominable crime of bestiality, was sentenced to stand in the pillory three times, an hour each time, and receive 900 lashes.

Daily experience proved, that those people whose sentences had expired were much greater evils than the other convicts. As no man was at this time spared from the public works, the shortest absence was noticed, and therefore we were well assured that the depredations and thefts were the handyworks of the former gentry, and their information was generally so accurate, that they never attempted a house that was not an object

object of plunder; and wherever there was any property, it was ten to one but they paid it a visit. It was suspected that the domestics of the house must have aided and assisted in these robberies, for the rogues always knew where to lay their hands on the property, and it was observed that they never once attempted the house of a poor individual.

There were also an amphibious kind of gentry, whose speculations were not confined to terra firma; for few ships that entered the harbour sailed from thence without receiving proofs of their address and ingenuity. It behoved the officers of every ship to keep the strictest guard over the people whom they permitted to come on board; for it was very obvious that every ship was visited by certain characters, to observe what kind of look-out they kept; many instances of this kind occurred, although one might have supposed a stranger would have been upon his guard, knowing what kind of people they were going to admit as visitors. A large quantity of tobacco had been stolen from the Bellona store-ship; half a barrel of gun-powder out of the Britannia, at the very time the master was entertaining some gentlemen from the settlement in the cabin. Mr. Page, the master of the Hope, was robbed of several articles, and the buckles out of his shoes, which were underneath his cot, wherein he lay asleep in the cabin; and a bale of goods from the Experiment; with an infinity of petty thefts of all descriptions.

In order to guard against this evil, it is necessary that masters should attend to something like the following rules:—Never to permit strangers to come on board without a certificate of leave; when on board, to be careful not to suffer them to go below, nor to see where any of the stores

are stowed ; never to permit a boat to come along-side in the night, unless there should be an officer in her ; in that case, to make the boat push off, and lay upon her oars, till his business was finished, when they should be called along-side to take him in : By these precautions, the greater part of these pilferings might be prevented. The decks of the ships at present are thronged with convicts, oftentimes of the most notorious characters in the colony.

On the 4th of July, a seaman was shot at Sydney by a convict ; and, on the same day, John Fenlow, a settler at the river, shot his servant. Fenlow and the convict were taken into custody, and were ordered to be brought to immediate trial ; but through the carelessness of the jailor, Fenlow, though encumbered with heavy irons, found means to make his escape from the cells, and was not retaken for near a month, when some of the natives discovered him lurking near his own habitation at the river, and giving information thereof, he was apprehended, and properly secured.

A criminal court of judicature being assembled early in the month of August, the following offenders were brought to trial :—Four convicts, for a burglary in the house of William Miller, but who, through a defect in the evidence, were acquitted. David Lloyd was tried for the wilful murder of John Smith, a seaman ; it appeared that the seaman had gone to the house of Mr. Payne, the prisoner's master, in a state of intoxication, for the purpose of taking away, from a female convict-servant belonging to Mr. Payne, with whom the sailor cohabited during their passage, some clothes which he had given her. A riot, the natural consequence of such a proceeding, immediately ensued ; and the prisoner endeavoured

deavoured to make it appear that he had been compelled, in his own defence, to fire the pistol at the seaman. The court admitted that the prisoner had not any malice against the deceased, which was necessary to constitute the crime of murder; and therefore found him guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced him to receive six hundred lashes.—John Fenlow, for the wilful murder of his servant, David Lane; this charge was fully proved, and the prisoner received sentence of death. Farrell, who, with Sutton, the newgate bully, assaulted the watch on St. Patrick's day last, when the latter received a wound on the temple, of which he languished and died; the watchmen were now brought up to account for his death; this they did to the satisfaction of the court, and were discharged. Four vagabonds, who had repeatedly broken out of prison, and ran away from the jail gang—a party, who from being hardened and notorious offenders, were kept at work in irons, and when the labour of the day was over, were locked up in the prison till they returned to their daily task—were tried as incorrigible rogues, and sentenced to three years hard labour in Norfolk Island, which being so small, they could not so easily elude the vigilance of the overseers. One man was tried for a rape, but acquitted. Fenlow was tried on the Saturday, and executed on the following Monday, and his body was delivered to the surgeons for dissection. It could scarcely be supposed that curiosity would have prevailed so strong, in a society composed as this is; for it was no sooner signified by the surgeons that the body was ready for inspection, than the hospital was crowded with men, women, and children, to the number of several hundreds, none of whom seemed, in the smallest degree, to betray any

horror or concern at the dreadful spectacle before them.

In consequence of the enormities, several judicious regulations were made. All persons who had been struck off the stores, and of course did not labour for the public, were ordered forthwith to appear at Sydney, in order to their being mustered, and examined relative to their respective terms of transportation; when certificates were to be given to such as were regularly discharged from the commissary's books, and the settlers were directed not to employ any but such as could produce this certificate. Frequent visits were to be made by the magistrates, for the purpose of settling such differences as might arise among the settlers and other persons; and the governor declared that he would himself inspect their conduct from time to time, and severely punish those who held his orders in contempt, by affording shelter and encouragement to the thieves and vagabonds who were rambling up and down the country.

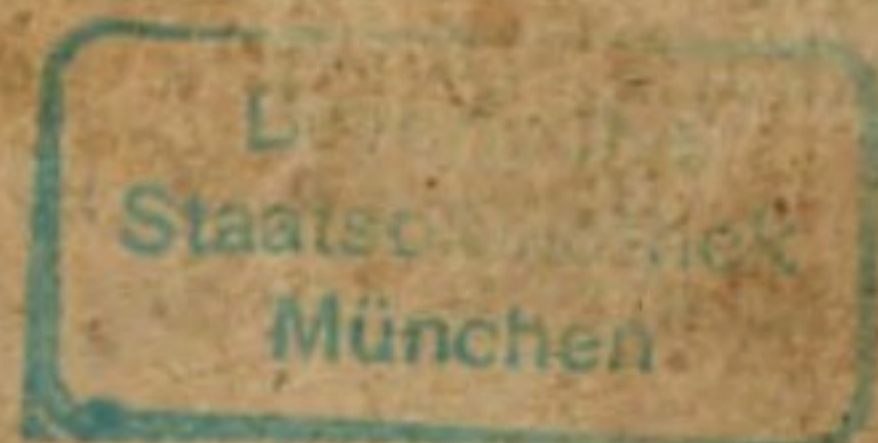
These regulations were made as public as possible; and there being a printing-press in the settlement, under the management of one Hughes, large bills of the proclamation were printed, and dispersed throughout the different districts, that none might plead ignorance; and the town of Sydney was soon filled with people from the surrounding settlements, who came to the judge-advocate for certificates of their having served their terms agreeably to their respective sentences. Among these were many who had been absent a long time, and whose terms were yet unexpired; some who had escaped from prison, and others who were for life, had changed their names, in order to impose on the officers. By the activity of the overseers, and a strict investigation of the
necessary

necessary books and papers, they were in general detected in the imposition, and were sent to hard labour in the jail-gang, which now increased in numbers every day. Two notorious offenders, Luke Normington and Richard Elliott, were detected in robbing the commissary's stock-yard. These were sent to the jail-gangs; also one Sharpless, a convict, who, after marrying the most deformed and ugly woman in the whole colony, took it into his head to be jealous of her, and gave her so dreadful a beating, that her life was in the utmost danger.

The colony now began to assume the appearance of being able to supply itself with respect to the necessaries of life, there being near six thousand acres of land in cultivation, and all the stores abundantly filled. In the houses of individuals were to be found most of the comforts, and not a few of the luxuries of life, for which we were indebted to our intercourse with India; and our early years of toil, famine, and difficulty, were now exchanged for an æra of plenty, ease, and pleasure.

During this time, my domestic concerns improved imperceptibly, so that my situation was equal, if not preferable, to most of the settlers here; having a flock of sheep, consisting of thirty-eight, with fourteen goats, a most excellent milch cow, half a dozen breeding sows, and a very plentiful stock of poultry; and, to add to the comforts of my situation, in the month of September, 1796, his excellency, governor Hunter, was pleased to present me with an absolute pardon, under the great seal of the colony, and appointed me a principal superintendant of the district of Paramatta, with a permanent salary of 50*l.* a year, in the room of Mr. Thomas Clark, who was returning to England. Hitherto

thereto my situation had been only provisional. The governor was pleased to compliment me on the “ faithful discharge of my duty, the integrity and uniform uprightness of my conduct, and my general behaviour during my whole residence in the colony, which,” he said, “ perfectly obliterated every trace of my former indiscretions.” It was such a friend as this to whom I alluded on a solemn occasion, previous to my leaving England;—this was the “ generous and powerful man” I so much needed in my youthful days, to come forward and say, “ Barrington, you have some abilities, which may be of service to yourself and the public—I feel for your situation, and will place you in a condition to try the sincerity of your intentions; and as long as you act with diligence and integrity, you shall not want for countenance and relief.” The above flattering eulogiums of his excellency, governor Hunter, the station I fill, and the consideration and friendship I experience from the most respectable persons in the colony, prove that, in my address to Baron Eyre, I was ingenuous and sincere.



*PRICES of the various ARTICLES of
STOCK, PROVISIONS, EUROPEAN
COMMODITIES, &c. in the Colony at
NEW SOUTH WALES.*

	£.	s.	d.
Cows	80	0	0
Horses	90	0	0
Sheep (Cape)	7	10	0
Ewes	7	7	0
Goats (Milch)	4	4	0
Kids	1	1	0
He-Goats	3	0	0
Breeding Sows	5	0	0
Sucking Pig	0	8	0
Grown Hog	3	10	0
Turkeys	1	1	0
Ducks (per couple)	0	10	0
Geese	1	1	0
Laying Hens	0	5	0
Full-grown Fowls	0	5	0
Chickens (per couple)	0	2	6
Eggs (per dozen)	0	2	0
Fresh pork (per pound)	0	1	3
Mutton	0	2	0
Goat	0	1	6
Kangaroo	0	0	4
Fish	0	0	3
Salt Pork	0	1	0
Salt Beef	0	0	8
Hams	0	1	6
			Bacon

				£.	s.	d.
Bacon	-	-	-	0	1	6
Butter	-	-	-	0	3	0
Cheese	-	-	-	0	3	0
Potatoes	-	-	-	0	3	0
Flour (per pound)	-	-	-	0	0	7
Wheat (per bushel)	-	-	-	0	12	0
Barley	-	-	-	0	10	0
Pease	-	-	-	0	7	0

GROCERIES

Green Tea (per pound)	-	0	16	0
Loaf Sugar	-	0	2	6
Moist ditto	-	0	1	6
Coarse ditto	-	0	1	0
Coffee	-	0	2	0
Pepper	-	0	4	0
Ginger	-	0	3	0
Vinegar (per gallon)	-	0	6	0
Soap (per pound)	-	0	2	0

WINE, SPIRITS, &c.

Jamaica Rum (per gallon)	-	1	8	0
American ditto	-	0	18	0
Coniac Brandy	-	1	4	0
Cape Brandy	-	0	18	0
Cherry Brandy (per bottle)	-	0	6	0
				Red

			£.	s.	d.
Red Port (per dozen)	-	-	3	0	0
Madeira	-	-	3	12	0
Porter	-	-	1	16	0
Gin (per bottle)	-	-	0	4	0
Colony Beer (per gallon)	-	-	0	6	0

INDIA GOODS.

Long Cloth, from 3s. to 6s. per yard.
 Calicoes, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.
 Muslins, from 7s. to 12s.
 Nankeen, 10s. per piece.
 Printed Calico, 1l. 5s. ditto.
 Silk Handkerchiefs, 12s.

ENGLISH GOODS.

Black Hats, from 15s. to 40s.
 Shoes, from 9s. to 13s.
 Boots, from 2l. to 3l.
 Cotton Stockings, from 6s. to 12s.

Hardware, Cutlery, Stationary, and Haberdashery Wares, produce a profit of from one to two hundred per cent, and frequently much more.

*The following Prices were paid for
Labour.*

	£.	s.	d.
A carpenter, for a day's work	0	5	0
Labourer, ditto	0	3	0
Clearing an acre of ground	3	0	0
Threshing a bushel of wheat	0	1	6
Reaping an acre of wheat	0	10	0
Price of land, per acre, from 12s. to	1	0	0
Making a pair of men's shoes	0	3	6
Making a pair of women's ditto	0	3	0
Making a coat	0	6	0
Making a gown	0	5	0
Washing each article	0	0	3
Washer-woman, per day	0	1	6

AN
OFFICIAL REGISTER
OF THE
CRIMES, TRIALS, AND EXECUTIONS
OF THE
CONVICTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES,
FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE COLONY.

<i>Time.</i>	<i>Prisoners Names.</i>	<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Sentence.</i>
Feb. 1788	* James Barret	Robbing the stores	Death.
	† James Freeman	Ditto	Ditto.
May 1st	J. Benn t, aged 17	Burglary	Ditto.
November	Four soldiers	Manlaughter	200 lashes.
December	‡ James Dailey	Burglary	Death.
Jan. 1789	— Ruglafs	Stabbing	700 lashes.
March	§ Six soldiers	Robbing the stores	Death.

* This was the first man that was punished with death; his confederates were pardoned on condition of being transported to Norfolk Island.

† Pardoned on condition of becoming the public executioner of the colony.

‡ The impostor, who pretended that he had discovered a gold mine.

§ This was a robbery of a most serious nature. The safety of the provisions was an object of the greatest consequence. One morning as the commissary went to inspect the store, he found a key broken in the lock that secured the principal door. On entering the storehouse he found that it had been plundered of various articles. It was suggested that the broken key might lead to the detection of the offenders,
Y —a smith,

<i>Time.</i>	<i>Prisoners Names.</i>	<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Sentence.</i>
Aug. 1789	* Daniel Gordon	Robbery	Acquitted.
September	† Henry Wright	Rape	Death.
November	‡ Ann Davis	Burglary	Ditto.

—a smith, to whom it was sent, recognised his workmanship, and declared that he had made it for one Hunt, a soldier. He was accordingly apprehended, but as it was supposed there were several accomplices, he was admitted an evidence for the crown. He accused six other soldiers of being concerned in depredations on the stores for some months past, in liquors and provisions to a large amount. They had sworn by the most sacred oaths to be faithful to each other;—they had agreed that when either of them should be placed sentinel at the store, some of the gang, during the night were to let themselves into the store, and take away as much of the stores as they could. When the patrol went his rounds to visit the store, he found it in a state of apparent security, and the sentinel careful and attentive to his duty. Unfortunately for them, the night preceding the discovery, one of the party intended while he was sentinel to have paid a visit to the provisions unknown to his associates. While he was in the act of unlocking the door, he heard the patrol coming. In attempting to turn the key again he over shot the lock; being unable to extricate the key, he broke it short off, and the wards were found as before mentioned. On his information the six soldiers were taken into custody, and the fact being clearly proved, they were all found guilty and executed.

* This man appearing on his trial to be labouring under a mental derangement he was accordingly acquitted. It was afterwards notorious that he had artfully feigned madness, in order to screen himself from punishment. He gained great credit among his companions for the dexterity with which he played his part.—He was a notorious character, continually in one scrape or another; and was reprieved under the gallows in England.

† He was recommended by the court for mercy, and was transported to Norfolk Island.

‡ She pleaded pregnancy, but undergoing an examination by a jury of twelve of the discreetest women in the colony, they brought a verdict in the negative, and she was executed pursuant to her sentence.

May

Time.	Prisoners Names.	Crime.	Sentence.
May 1790	A Soldier (<i>centinel</i>)	Garden Robbery	500 lashes.
August	Hugh Lowe	Sheep stealing	Death.
October	William Harris	Burglary	Ditto
July 1791	Ewd. Wildblood	Ditto	Ditto
	John Chapman	Ditto	Ditto
	Joseph Hatton	Receiving stolen goods	800 lashes.
Feb. 1792	James Collington	Burglary	Death.
September	* Ben. Ingram	Ditto	Ditto.
	William Godfrey	Privately stealing	Acquitted.
October	Richard Sutton	Burglary	Ditto.
Jan. 1793	Charles Gray	Privately stealing	100 lashes.
March	† William Ashford	Ditto	300 ditto.
July	‡ Samuel Wright	Ditto	Ditto.
December	Chas. Williams	Burglary	Acquitted.
	John Bevan	Ditto	Ditto.
	John Crow	Ditto	Death.
July 1794	John Fleming	Ditto	Ditto.
	Arch. Macdonald	Ditto	Ditto.
	John Bevan	Ditto	Acquitted.
October	Ditto	Ditto	Death.
	—— Hill	Murder	Ditto.
April 1795.	§ John Anderson	Rape	500 lashes.
	Joseph Marshall	Ditto	Ditto.
	John Hyams	Ditto	300 ditto.
	Joseph Dunstall	Ditto	Ditto.
	Richard Watson	Ditto	Ditto.
	Morgan Bryan	Ditto	500 ditto.

* This man was reprieved upon condition of residing for life on Norfolk Island.

† Pardoned on account of his youth, being only sixteen.

‡ Pardoned, being only fourteen.

§ This was a most infamous transaction,—six ruffians brutally attacking a single woman.

April

<i>Time.</i>	<i>Prisoners Names.</i>	<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Sentence.</i>
April 1795	* John Raynor	Burglary	Death.
July	Mary Pawson	Arson	Acquitted.
	James Barry	Burglary	1000 lashes.
November	Samuel Chinnery	Robbing his master	Acquitted.
	† ——— Merchant, alias Jones	Rape	1000 lashes.
	——— Ladley	Ditto	Ditto.
	——— Everit	Ditto	800 Ditto.
	——— Smith	Burglary	Death.
	‡ Ab. Whitehouse	Ditto	Ditto.
	William Britton	Ditto	Acquitted.
Feb. 1796	John Reid	Ditto	Ditto.
	Cæsar	Runaway	Shot in the woods.
	James Macarthy	Forgery	Death.
April	James Ashford	Privately stealing	Transported to Norfolk Isla.
	George Hyson	Attempting Beastiality	Thrice Pillo-ried.
	§ David Lloyd	Murder	600 Lashes.
August	John Fenlow	Ditto	Death.

* Raynor was included in an act of grace, and received a pardon on the arrival of governor Hunter.

† There were eight wretches tried for this brutal attack on one woman, five of whom, the evidence being rather defective, escaped punishment. The difficulty of bringing the people to give evidence against each other was insurmountable, and by far the greater part of the acquittals were occasioned by a wilful suppression of evidence.

‡ Some favourable circumstances appearing in his behalf after the trial, he was reprieved.

§ He was indicted for murder, but the court adjudged him guilty of manslaughter only. Numberless trifling offences were daily committed, but it would have been an endless task to have brought every one to trial; petty offenders generally underwent a summary examination, and, if found guilty, they were punished on the spot.

THE END.

Barrington, George,

A voyage to New South Wales Comprising an interesting narrative of the transactions and behaviour of the convicts ; To which is annexed his life and trial

Dublin 1801

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